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THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow
Royal democrat
Times Profile
of King
Juan Carlos
Poetic works
James Fenton reviews
the journals and
poems of Stephen
Spender
Varsity warm-up
Oxford versus
an international
guest rugby side
Job centre
Fourteen pages
of business
appointments

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio daily
competition prize of £2,000 was
shared by five winners yesterday.
Mr D. Crawford of Strathclyde, Mrs A. Welch of
Southwell, Notts, Mr J. M. Linsay of Wallasey, Mrs W.
Thomson of Edgware, Middlesex
and Mrs P. Young of Pinner,
Middlesex, each receive
£400. Portfolio list, page
28; how to play, information
service, back page.

Plastic
bullets
warning
Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of
the West Midlands police
committee, said last night that
he would resign if plastic bullets
were ever fired in the area. Mr
Geoffrey Dear, the Chief
Constable, presenting his report on
the Handsworth riots, said
that it was time for the use of
plastic bullets to be considered.

Cash 'confusion'
The Government is guilty of
administrative negligence on a
grand scale, Mr John Bannham,
controller of the Audit
Commission, told a London
symposium on rates.

TSB action
Three Sheffield depositors plan
to bring a court action against
the Government over the
Trustee Savings Bank
liquidation, similar to the one in Scotland.

Royal concern
The Princess of Wales is
shocked by Britain's infant
mortality rate and is lending her
weight to an organization
researching childhood
problems, she has told The Times.

Women priests
The prospects for the
ordination of women priests looked
grimmer when clergy in the
general Synod elected
opponents of women priests to key
posts.

CBI warning
Interest rates must be cut from
today's 11.5 to 7 per cent by the
middle of next year, the CBI
president, Sir James Thompson,
said.

Liberian ban
Liberia has re-opened its
international airport to
Monrovia for the first time since the
abhorrent coup of November 12
but has banned foreign
journalists for two weeks.

THE TIMES
FOCUS
The British Gas Corporation is
to be privatized next year. This
bi-centenary issue examines the
history of the industry.

Leader page, 15
Letters: On Ireland, from Mr R.
L. McCartney, QC, MPA, and
others; unemployment, from
Prof W. A. Armstrong.
Leading articles: Televising of
Parliament; European
Monetary System; Brazilian election
Features, pages 12-14
Hi-tech terminals to the fore; A-
tests that demolished the
imperial connection; Malthus
denied: Spectrum: how just was
Nuremberg? Wednesday Page:
royal patronage
Obituary, page 16
Sir Hugh Munro-Lucas-Tooth,
Dowager Countess of Lucan
Classified, 33-38
La crème de la crème: property

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Leaders optimistic as summit gets off to cordial start

From Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent, Geneva

President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev spent more than two hours in private conversation yesterday - eight times longer than planned - in a move clearly intended to inject a personal dimension into the superpower relationship.

Although the two leaders imposed a news blackout for the duration of their two-day summit, it was immediately apparent that their talks had begun well and were more cordial and constructive than expected.

Last night US and Soviet officials were letting it be known that their leaders would remain in Geneva until Thursday if it becomes clear today that they will be in a position to sign agreements or issue a joint statement.

The summit was scheduled to end tonight, with Mr Reagan leaving Geneva tomorrow for Brussels to brief Nato leaders before returning to Washington to address a joint session of Congress.

Before leaving Washington last week, US aides said it was unlikely sufficient progress would be made at the summit for a joint statement to be issued. Officials from both sides said last night that on decision had been made on what kind of final statement would be issued.

Agreements that may be signed if the talks continue to go well could cover cultural relations and landing rights.

It is also possible the two leaders could agree to hold another summit next year or in 1987 and, if today's meetings go exceptionally well, on guidelines for future arms talks.

The summit - the first between the US and Soviet Union in more than six years - got off to a good start when the two men greeted each other with smiles and a firm handshake when Mr Gorbachev arrived at the Fleur d'Eau mansion, the American headquarters for the meeting, at 10 am.

After posing for photographs the two went into a small room for a preliminary tête-à-tête before joining aides for the first plenary session of the summit.

Their fireside chat was intended to last only 15 minutes but went on for just over an hour. What was supposed to be a brief getting-to-know-you session turned into a full discussion of political issues.

Afterwards, President Reagan said it had been "a cordial meeting. I believe we do both share the same goals."

Swiss television, which has special access to the summit sites, quoted Mr Gorbachev as saying he thought "we will have a good relationship" with Mr Reagan.

The personal "fireside diplomacy" interrupted the schedule again in the afternoon when, after the delegations had spent just over an hour discussing arms control, Mr Reagan suggested he and Mr Gorbachev should go for a stroll in the wooded grounds of the mansion.

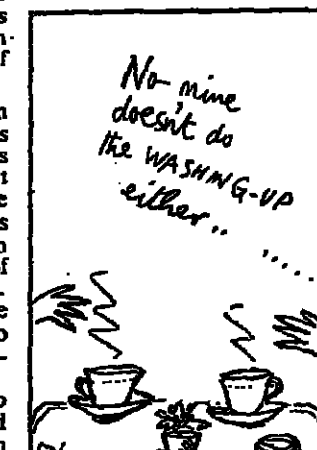
Putting on their overcoats, the two leaders strolled down a gravelled path to Lakeside cottage accompanied only by interpreters, they spent a further 54 minutes in private conversation.

American officials insisted the meeting was a spontaneous gesture by the President. But the fact that the two leaders found a fire burning merrily in the hearth suggested an element of planning.

Because of an agreement reached at the outset of the meeting that neither side would brief journalists on the substance of the talks until the summit is over, neither American nor Soviet spokesmen would say what the two leaders had discussed.

However, they both agreed that the atmosphere had been cordial and businesslike. Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, also conceded that Mr Gorbachev had not used the

Continued on back page, col 5



Mr Reagan leading Mr Gorbachev into the Fleur d'Eau mansion yesterday, and the handshake that heralded the start of their cordial meeting

Fleet St makes £100m on Reuters

By Graham Seargeant and Patience Wheatcroft

Six leading newspaper groups yesterday raised more than £100 million by selling shares in Reuters, the news agency and financial information group.

The shares were part of a £115 million block, more than a tenth of the B shares in Reuters, which was floated on the Stock Exchange last year. They were placed among various investors.

The sale will bring welcome relief to several Fleet Street groups which need cash to finance new printing development, redundancies and payments associated with changes in technology, and which in some cases are facing poor trading. The sale was arranged in accordance with an agreement made at the time of the flotation.

Only Pearson (the Financial Times and Westminster Press

The crisis at Mirror Group Newspapers deepened last night as the biggest print union voted by more than 2-1 for strike action. Ms Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat '82, announced that 2,168 of her members in MGN offices in London and Manchester had voted for action, and 930 against. The result of the ballot, held in protest at a plan to make all 6,000 MGN employees redundant this year, will be delivered personally to Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the newspapers.

group) which is raising £24 million and Reed International (£6 million) have sold all their shares, in each case for other reasons.

The biggest seller is United Newspapers (£31 million), which recently took over the Express Newspapers group Fleet Holdings. Until now Fleet held the biggest Fleet Street interest in Reuters.

Associated Newspapers and News International (which owns Times Newspapers) have not taken part in the share sale. Others including the Mirror Group Newspapers, which has sold £15 million of shares.

The sales will be particularly welcome to The Daily Telegraph, which is raising £14 million, and Mr Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers, which has sold £15 million of shares.

As the financial crisis at The Daily Telegraph deepens, it now appears that the company is having disagreements with its auditors over the presentation of its half-year financial results.

The company's new auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, are reviewing accounting practices. Interim accounts are not normally accompanied by an auditors' certificate. The accountants are also carrying out a study to try to pinpoint areas where savings might be made.

Unionists resign in protest

By Colin Hughes and Richard Ford

Unionist politicians sitting on local government committees in Northern Ireland yesterday began resigning en masse and suspending council meetings in protest at the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Leaders of both the Democratic Unionist Party and the Official Unionist Party said that none of their 15 MPs at Westminster would resign and force by-elections until after a full debate in Parliament expected next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Yesterday's resignations were described as the "main plank" of the proposed Unionist protest against the deal, because they would force a "mini general election" on the issue of support for the agreement between the Government and the Irish Republic.

The Social and Democratic Labour Party, mostly supported by moderate Roman Catholics, yesterday formally rejected an approach by Sinn Féin aimed at reaching a deal if the by-elections go ahead.

Sinn Féin proposed a pact to avoid splitting the nationalist vote in four marginal seats, but Mr Eddie McGrady, the SDLP chief who said that their aims were incompatible because Sinn Féin rejected the deal and lent support to violence.

An attempt by the Official Unionists to challenge the deal's constitutional legality in the High Court today, when they will apply for judicial review, is being given little chance of success.

The Rev Ian Paisley accused the Government yesterday of risk of IRA assassination by withdrawing his police bodyguard. Police in London and Belfast refused to comment on the allegation, but Scotland Yard insisted there had been "no change" in existing arrangements.

Opening an historic three-day debate on the agreement in the Dail, Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, appealed for all deputies to approach it in a calm manner, and avoid triumphalism so that fears and passions would not be aroused in Northern Ireland.

Continued on back page, col 8

Baker will oust Liverpool's militants if Kinnock agrees

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, will be prepared to send commissioners in to run Liverpool, ousting the Militant-dominated Labour council, when Mr Neil Kinnock gives a commitment to support the necessary legislation.

With the council poised to stop the payment of all of its 31,000 employees by the end of this week, Mr Baker yesterday told a delegation of Liverpool Labour MPs: "No one wants to see council workers going unpaid and the city's services, on which many of the people of Liverpool depend, crumbling."

"The council can prevent all that and they must act to do so."

Ministers are unwilling to overturn the democratic process until Mr Kinnock has publicly agreed that Liverpool's Trotskyist leadership deserves to be toppled with the moral and political authority of all-party parliamentary action.

The alternative would leave the Government open to attack by the Militants, who would accuse it of anti-democratic action and dictatorship, more ammunition for their policies of confrontation.

Ministers believe that Liverpool is a Labour Party problem, and some go so far as to say that Labour should be made to stew in its acute embarrassment over the Mersey Militants. If Mr Kinnock fails to bite the bullet and call for commissioners to be sent in to end the crisis, ministers argue that Labour will be seen in its true colours.

They also understand, however, that Mr Kinnock would be creating a horrific internal party problem for himself if he were to dare to disown the Liverpool leadership.

So far, Mr Kinnock has confined himself to strong verbal attacks on the Liverpool Militants, but has fought shy of direct action against them.

Some Labour leaders are hoping for a moderate-led coup, but that was firmly ruled out this week by one Liverpool Labour source, who said that such a thing could not be attempted in the middle of the struggle for more money.

Mr Baker told Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton, and other Labour MPs last night: "The options are there in the Stenofoam Report. If some of the decisions are difficult that is a direct consequence of the council's own deliberate failure to run its affairs properly."

Mr Heffer said: "They're totally intransigent." But when it was pointed out that his own front bench agreed, he said: "They may well say that... they are obviously not fully acquainted with the real problems of Liverpool."

Mr James Hamilton, the leader of the council, Mr Derek Hatton, his Militant deputy, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, another leading Militant councillor, were excluded from Mr Baker's meeting because they had failed to "act properly and balance their books."

Unless the council can find £10,000 by today bailiffs will seize its fleet of official cars, four Ford Granadas, to pay outstanding creditors' bills (Peter Devenport writes).

The crisis is also affecting some schools, which yesterday reported they had run out of heating oil supplies. Five blocks of sheltered accommodation for the elderly were without wardens.

Mr Baker: "No one wants to see workers unpaid"



Mr Baker: 'No one wants to see workers unpaid'

Boxer fined £15,000 for brawl

By Srikanar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Mark Kaylor, of West Ham, and Errol Christie, of Coventry, the boxers who were involved in a public brawl at a London casino last month, were fined £15,000 and £5,000 respectively by the British Boxing Board of Control yesterday for bringing the sport into disrepute.

It was the heaviest financial penalty ever handed out to a boxer licensed by the board and represents 32 per cent of the purse earned by Kaylor for the much publicised British middleweight title eliminator on November 5, and 17 per cent of Christie's share.

The board clearly took into account reports that Kaylor had precipitated the incident by first trying to push Christie into the fountain outside the casino, an action which led to a wrestling match in the courtyard, and then threw the punch inside at the press conference that started the brawl. Kaylor had been disciplined on two other occasions for rule violations in the ring.

The two boxers and their managers were before the stewards for 45 minutes and then had to wait for an hour for the outcome but said that they would be seeking legal advice. They have 14 days to appeal.

A board spokesman said "We took a very serious view of the matter. In the interests of the sport and the public we must try to ensure there is no repeat of this kind of behaviour."

The previous highest fine was £1,000 imposed on Brian London for meeting Floyd Patterson in a world heavyweight title bout in United States against the wishes of the board.

Mike Barrett, the Wembley promoter of the middleweight title eliminator, who had claimed a part of the fines as compensation for an attendance he believed was lower than expected because of the adverse publicity, said he would not be pressing for his money.

Israel says two Syrian jets downed

By Our Foreign Staff

Israel claimed yesterday to have shot down two of Syria's advanced MiG-23 fighters high above the border between Lebanon and Syria itself. The incident happened during what the Israeli Air Force says was a routine reconnaissance flight over Southern Lebanon by aircraft checking on the positions of terrorist bases there.

As Israeli Defence Force spokesmen said that both MiGs crashed on Syrian territory, but he denied that Israeli aircraft were at any stage over Syria.

The incident was tersely reported by Syrian officials who did not mention losses. In Damascus, a Syrian military spokesman said, Syrian MiGs drove off two Israeli F-15 fighters "which violated Syrian airspace in the area of Nabek", 40 miles north of the capital.

Continued on back page, col 4

Safe conduct guarantee ends Athens rioting

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The law and order, crisis which had left Athens at the mercy of rioting extremists for 48 hours, ended last night as abruptly as it had begun.

About 1,000 left-wing extremists, banded in the Polytechnic to protest at the killing of a teenage demonstrator by police, agreed to leave peacefully after the university senate guaranteed their safe conduct.

Fears that the disturbances would have increased during a protest meeting staged by the National Union of Greek Students, were dispelled when the communist-controlled union cancelled the demonstration citing information that

it would have been infiltrated by agents provocateurs.

In a suburban cemetery, Mihailis Kallezas, the schoolboy, aged 15, who was killed by a police bullet during riots on Sunday night, was given a peaceful burial attended by relatives, friends and about 1,500 sympathizers.

Earlier, policeman Athanasios Melistas, aged 27, who was charged with premeditated homicide under heavy psychological stress, had said he was shocked by what he had done. "I did not want to kill. I fired my gun to frighten the demonstrators because I was in fear of my life," he said.

Weakness denied, page 7

MPs back the Thatcher line on EMS

The Government should not take the pound into the European Monetary System, an all-party committee of MPs concluded yesterday, (David Smith, Economic Correspondent, writes).

This is despite strong support from industry for joining the EEC exchange rate system.

The Treasury and Civil Service Committee, on a majority verdict, favoured "maintenance of the status quo in the short to medium term."

The pound gained nearly a cent to \$1.4355 yesterday, but it was steady against the European currencies.

Leading article, page 15
MPs seek delay, page 25

Anonymous £10,000 settles Covent Garden strike

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The unexpected intervention by the anonymous benefactor, who first approached the company at the weekend, has given the Royal Opera House an unforeseen settlement to a dispute which was costing it £130,000 a week, and a deal which will have no knock-on effects on the wages of the other 1,000 workers at Covent Garden.

As far as the company is concerned the musicians have accepted the 8.5 per cent pay rise on offer, and the additional half per cent given by the

donor whose identity is still a mystery to most of those connected with Covent Garden.

Sir Claus Moser, the company's president, said yesterday: "I genuinely do not know who the benefactor is. The gift is absolutely anonymous."

"I am very pleased because the orchestra are a devoted group of people who are very important to us. We are very grateful for the help of this well-wisher. Otherwise we would have stood firm and everybody was dreading a long, drawn-out blackout."

The Royal Opera House will be back in business tonight, thanks to an anonymous donor who has given £10,000 to settle the week-long strike by the company's orchestra.

Members of the 120-strong orchestra returned to work yesterday afternoon after accepting a compromise pay offer worth 9 per cent. The deal was 1 per cent less than the musicians had claimed and 5 per cent more than the Opera House had offered.

The cost of the improvement has been met by an anonymous

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Handsworth riot report

Police chief accuses drug dealers of orchestrating attacks

From Craig Seton, Birmingham

Police case for plastic bullets

Mr Geoffrey Dear, the Chief Constable of the West Midlands, yesterday gave notice to ask for an order to use plastic bullets in the case of the Handsworth riots.

Mr Dear, presenting his report prepared for Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to the committee in Birmingham yesterday said: "I am not making an appeal to you now about the use of plastic bullets but I have got to talk to you positively about them in the near future."

made and stored on the car park of the Villa Cross public house, which together with the Acapulco Café had been raided for drugs in the summer.

When attempts to draw police into the area by false 999 calls failed, a disused bingo hall at Villa Cross - opposite the public house of the same name - was set on fire and firemen who tried to put it out came under attack from stones and petrol bombs.

Mr Dear's account of the developing riot contained details of the number of emergency calls received by the police which revealed the size of the problem they were facing.

One reference in his report said: "At 20.58 hours a call was received from a man at the Post Office. His message is recorded as 'please help, they are smashing their way in, they want to kill us', at the same time a robbery was reported at a service station in Heathfield Road. One minute later a fire was reported at the junction with Lozells Street and a caller with premises near to the Lozells Road Post Office reported 'mob setting all the shops on fire. There have been no police or fire brigade. If they come in my shop I will kill them.'"

It was at the Lozells Road Post Office that two Asian



Mr Geoffrey Dear, who has given his analysis of the Handsworth riots.

HANDSWORTH RIOT CHARGES

Offence	Number charged
Murder	2
Grievous bodily harm	12
Assault/wounding	18
Arson	115
Burglary	12
Robbery	38
Theft	38
Handling stolen goods	19
Possessing weapons	21
Criminal damage	5
Taking motor vehicles	15
Equipped for theft	15
Drugs offences	5
Behaviour likely to cause breach of peace	43
Obstruction	5
Others	7

brothers died. Their shop was petrol bombed and they remained inside, ignoring earlier pleas by firemen to leave the area.

Mr Dear said it was clear early on that there was a degree of organization amongst the rioters who effectively sealed off Lozells Road and several side streets with burning barricades. Missile throwing and the movement of rioters appeared to be orchestrated by the loud blowing of whistles.

Between 9pm and 10pm widespread looting was taking place and many people had been attracted to the area. Those carrying out the looting attacks were black - including large numbers of Rastafarians - whites and Asians. Various leaders of the rioters and looters emerged, including one tall Rastafarian who appeared to be organizing a group of 10 to 15 blacks.

Mr Dear said it was not until about 10.05pm that police in a protected van made the first thrust along Lozells Road. Before that unrestrained looting had taken place between the fires started by the rioters and the police positions. Not all of the looting and rioting was organized.

Leaflets entitled "Today's Pigs - tomorrow's bacon" showing in detail how to make effective petrol bombs and warning the view that looting took the waiting out of wanting had been found in the area after the riots, Mr Dear said.

His report said: "The principal target of the rioters was the police. The violent hatred against the police was designed to hurt them and keep them out of the area. That explained, he said, why they were not able to move along Lozells Road to deal with the disorder until sufficient numbers were available, whereas most Asian and white shopkeepers were able to move about relatively unimpeded."

The Chief Constable said: "The distinction was that the police would have interrupted the criminal free for all whereas members of the public were impotent and unable to intervene."



The Flying Bufferbeam, at 5ft 4in tall Britain's smallest standard gauge steam locomotive, will form part of a railway enthusiasts' weekend at Chatham Historic Dockyard, Kent, this Saturday and Sunday. It was built in 1936 for an industrial railway near Flint, Clwyd, and used to carry rayon waste which had to go through a low tunnel (Photograph: John Manning).

EEC asked to act on danger goods

By Patricia Clough

Action to reduce the number of dangerous products on sale, including a fast information-exchange system between the safety agencies of the 12 EEC countries, was sought by the Consumers in the European Community group at its launch yesterday.

Such information should be made public, the group said, to protect people who already owned the products. It was ridiculous that goods banned as dangerous in one country could be legally sold in another.

The group, formed to safeguard European and British consumers as the EEC breaks down the internal barriers to trade, said: "The Community must attach the same importance to the safety of Europe's

consumers as it does to improving trade. People are less replaceable than products."

Some 40 million people in the Community are injured in accidents in the home each year and 30,000 die. In Britain about three million are injured and 7,000 killed. Some of these accidents are caused by defective products.

The group is demanding that manufacturers and importers be legally obliged to place only safe products on the market. At present there are no import restraints on such products as combs and hair curlers that cause electric shocks, car jacks that collapse, toy pop guns that fire sharply-pointed rods, plugs and adapters that burst into flames.

£1,000m 'industry' of holes in the road

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Tighter controls on holes in Britain's roads are urged in the report of an official inquiry published yesterday.

Gas, electricity, water and telephone authorities dig about two million holes a year in Britain's roads at a cost of £1,000 million. Their repairs leave an uneven surface and are often dangerous.

Motorists swerve and may lose control, cyclists fall off their bicycles, pedestrians trip and fall, and blind people fall down holes, the report says.

A particular irritant is the lack of coordination by the four utilities, each with its own statutory rights to open roads for pipes or cables. Often, one has no sooner made repairs to a road before another comes

along to dig it up again in the same place.

Gas undertakings spend £445 million a year on digging and repairing roads, electricity £300 million, and water and telecommunications bring the figure to £1,000 million. The report of the inquiry, under Professor Michael Horne, former professor of engineering at Manchester University, describes such roadworks as a "massive industry".

The report recommends a minimum national standard for all roadworks, with better training for workers who dig and mend holes, and a two-year guarantee by the utilities.

Roads and the Utilities. (Department of Transport (Stationary Office, £13).

Appeal on miners' quashed charges

By Frances Gibb

The Crown is to challenge a Court of Appeal decision to reduce to manslaughter the murder conviction on two South Wales miners who killed a taxi driver in the mining strike.

The Law Lords yesterday granted the Director of Public Prosecutions leave to appeal to the House of Lords against last month's quashing of convictions of murder against Reginald Dean Hancock, aged 22, and Russell Shankland, aged 21, and the substitution of eight-year sentences for manslaughter.

Despite the initial view of lawyers that such an appeal would only seek to clarify the law, an official in the judicial office of the House of Lords confirmed yesterday that if the appeal were successful the miners could find their original sentences reimposed.

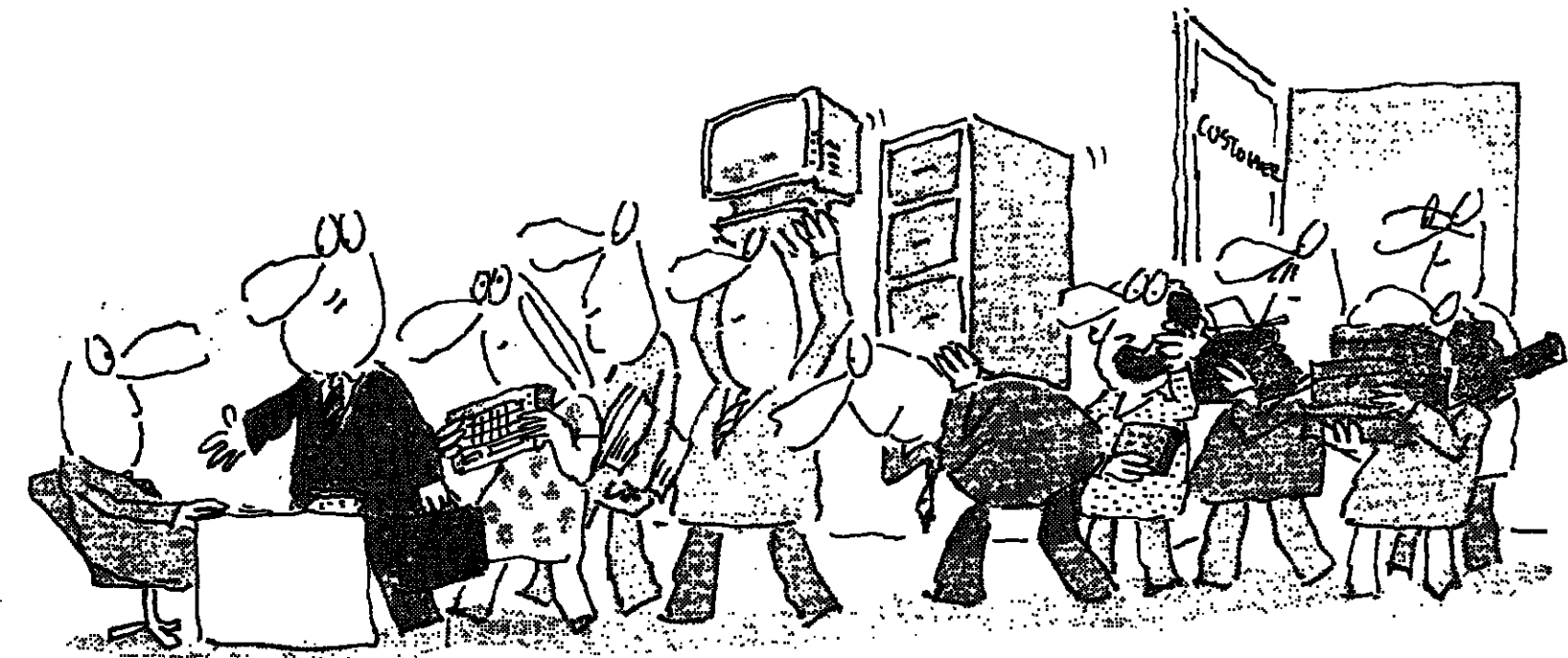
The Court of Appeal held that the trial judge, Mr Justice Mann, had been unwittingly misled by murder case guidelines recently issued by the House of Lords into misdirecting the jury on the "natural consequences" of the miners' actions.

The men had pushed a concrete post from a bridge as Mr David Wilkie approached, driving a working miner to the pit.

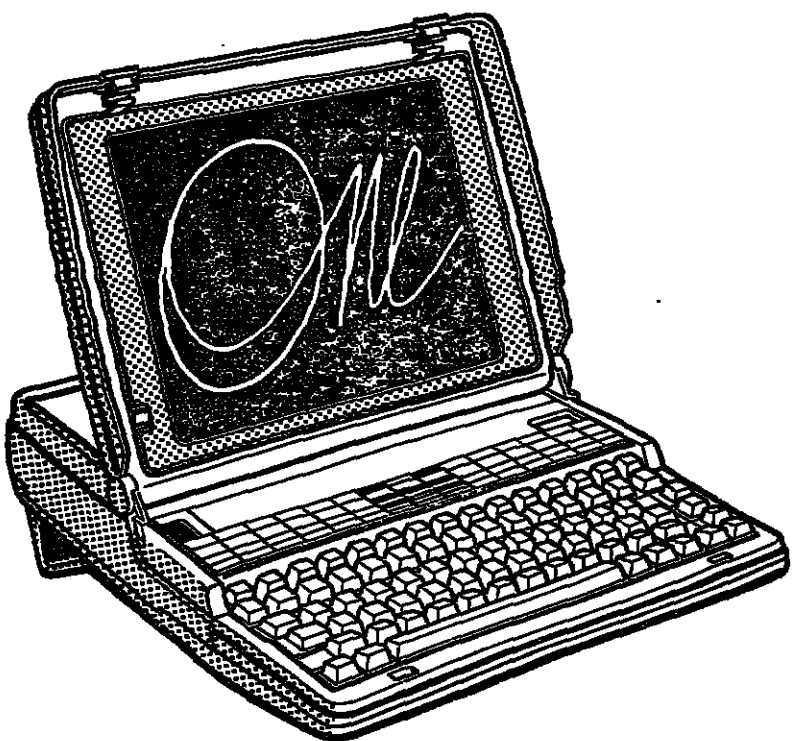
Yesterday Lord Scarman, sitting with Lord Templeman and Lord MacKay, said there was a need to clarify the law on the distinction between murder and manslaughter offences.

Giving the Court of Appeal's judgement, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said the words "natural consequences" in the new guidelines were misleading without amplification.

The words meant that it must have been highly likely that a defendant's act would cause death or serious injury before juries could infer he had the necessary intent.



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Suffocated child's mother is jailed

The mother of Gemma Hartwell was jailed for six months yesterday after admitting cruelly neglecting her daughter, aged 22 months, who died at the hands of her father.

Yvonne Hartwell, aged 25, of Waterworks Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, was told by Mr Justice Tudor, Evans that she had done absolutely nothing to stop her husband's violence towards Gemma. A telephone call to social workers might have saved her.

On Monday, Phillip Hartwell, aged 30, who the judge described as "dangerous, violent and heartless", was jailed for ten years after the jury at Birmingham Crown Court convicted him of Gemma's manslaughter and ill-treatment. She suffocated after Hartwell pushed a ball of knitting wool into her mouth and gagged her with a scarf to keep her quiet.

Sixteen days earlier social workers had sent Gemma home to live with her parents on a trial basis. She had been in council care since her birth. The girl's bruised body was put into a cardboard box and buried in a shallow grave in woodland near Birmingham.

Buyers keen on new £1.5m homes

By Christopher Warman

Property Correspondent

One of Britain's most luxurious and expensive housing developments is now on the market in London, with prices for the 24 houses on the estate ranging from £750,000 to about £1.5 million.

The four and five-bedroom houses at Fitzroy Park, Highgate, north London, stand on a seven-acre site that was formerly part of the grounds of Witanhurst, considered to be the second largest private house in London after Buckingham Palace.

Hampton and Sons, the agents, who acquired the site for more than £7 million on behalf of the Rosehaugh Group, are content to describe the properties as of "high quality". Rottenberg associates designed the houses in six different styles. As at the Barratt development in Dulwich where Mrs Thatcher has bought a £400,000 house, each property can be approached through an electronically operated main gate.

The first phase of eight houses is scheduled for completion by next spring.

while Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Social Security, has promised new rules to replace the system which he himself has described as "weird and wonderful", no new system for extra payments for exceptionally severe weather has yet been introduced.

Department of Health and Social Security official yesterday confirmed it has no method of making extra payments.

London, with a maximum temperature of 2.4, saw its coldest November day since 1968 and snow up to an inch deep fell in parts of Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, the first mid-November snow in

£100m a year in adverts could peg licence fee

The television licence fee could be pegged at its present level for three years if the BBC took £100 million of advertising a year, the corporation said yesterday. But, at the end of the period, the public would still have to pay 90 per cent of the increase that would have been necessary without commercials.

Mr Geoff Buck, the corporation's director of finance, said that advertising would "buy a pause" in the licence fee but was not a solution to the BBC's funding.

Yesterday, the corporation said that professional economic advice was strongly against the optimistic projections for funding the BBC by advertising.

A recent survey conducted for the BBC had shown that companies expected their advertising budgets to increase by an average of only 5 per cent, even with a possible 30 per cent drop in the cost of television advertising.

The BBC also challenged the idea that its audience offered advertisers new opportunities to select specific "target" viewers at premium rates. The BBC and ITV audiences were not different enough for that.

much of the Home Counties since 1976.

The Automobile Association reported delays for motorists on the M3 in Surrey and the M25 and M11 in Essex as snow and sleet fell in winds that at times reached 25 miles an hour.

England and Wales had abnormally cold weather yesterday with temperatures barely reaching 2C in London and snow showers over eastern and southern parts of the country. Scotland was dry, with sunshine in some places. The outlook for the next 48 hours: more of the same.

Forecast, back page

Cold snap spotlights heating muddle

By Nicholas Timmins

Social Services Correspondent

Social security ministers were yesterday under pressure to bring in new regulations allowing extra heating payments for the elderly and others on supplementary benefit, as London and parts of the Home Counties saw snow and some of the coldest November weather for at least 15 years.

The present rules governing extra heating payments, which went to 170,000 claimants last year, were ruled unlawful by the Social Security Commissioners early this year. And

PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 19 1985

Irish agreement

Tax plans

Teachers' dispute

Owen calls for new family benefit

MPs urge critics to give accord chance to work

ULSTER

Most people believed that the Anglo-Irish agreement should be given a chance to work. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and some of her supporters said during question time in the Commons.

On the other side Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C) said the agreement would tend to increase rather than diminish the level of violence.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterhouse, C) said: Will she welcome the enormous measure of all-party support she received in the House yesterday?

Would she meet with sadness on the extreme reaction of certain MPs from the Province and agree that the time to judge this agreement is in two to three years, when it has had a chance to work?

Those who prejudice it misjudge the yearning of the vast majority of people in the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland for a new and constructive approach to achieving peace and stability in the Province.

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to Mr Colvin. I welcome the reception for the agreement. Most people wish to give it a good chance to work. Most people will make a constructive approach and condemn all those who use violence.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said: The tragedies of those who should take a lead in condemning maiming and killing of people in our land are those who talk of treachery when only courage and vision is put forward at this time.

It is important that the fanatics, whether IRA or Protestant, should seek a way in which all peoples can live at peace.

Mrs Thatcher: I believe that men and women of good will in Northern Ireland, in the whole United Kingdom and in the Republic, should join in defeating the IRA.

Mr Barry Porter (Wirral South, C): Will she comment on the article in today's *Guardian* that may be she is having second thoughts and further accept there are a large number of responsible non-extremist English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish unionists who would have welcomed her reconsideration?

Mrs Thatcher: I think the general view is that the agreement should be given a chance.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Some of us believe the Anglo-Irish agreement will tend to increase rather than diminish the level of violence.

Will she give an assurance that the representations by the Republic Government in the Anglo-Irish conference will be made public on all occasions?

Mrs Thatcher: I hope he will join in thoroughly condemning all who resort to violence. Representations in the inter-governmental conference would not normally be published.

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Barnstaple, C): Does she think that a distinguished member of the Dublin Parliament, Senator Mary Robinson, is an illiterate extremist who has taken his own way to the advances made in this document by her?

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ENVIRONMENT

The planned southern route for the Okehampton bypass in Devon was the best option for the environment, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for transport, said in the Commons.

He was moving the third reading of the Okehampton Bypass (Construction) Bill, which provides for the compulsory purchase orders for the bypass.

The Bill was introduced under the Statute of Orders (Special Procedures) Act 1943 which provided that the measure required only a report and third reading this session in the Commons and Lords.

Mr Ridley said everyone agreed that a bypass was urgently needed. The *Times*, which he played in aid, had recently spoken about the plight of the endless, growing flow of heavy lorries, darkening front rooms and threatening any minute to burst uninvited into a hotel bar. It was a miracle there had been so few accidents.

The argument had gone on for 17 years and it was time for a decision. He took the responsibility himself, this was a decision taken by ministers, not by his department. He had looked carefully at all the alternative routes of the ground with an open mind, and the southern route was the best option for the environment.

His predecessor in office had been similarly convinced, including Labour ministers. Among others convinced were the county councils of Devon and Cornwall and all local authority officers. The independent inspector also approved of the southern route.

He would do all he could to ensure that the route caused minimum noise and visual intrusion to Okehampton residents or visitors to Dartmoor. It was planned to plant more than 70,000 trees to shield the road. He was also

examining the possibility of extra tree cover.

Another route would be an environmental disaster. It would involve ugly 20-foot high embankments and a 90-foot high viaduct on the doorstep of Okehampton.

There was a fear that there might be a precedent because the southern route infringed a national park. There were competing reasons for rejecting the southern route. That was so. Two additional pieces of land might be bought to replace the open space lost by the southern route.

Those who said a northern bypass could be built in five years were wrong. It would take at least nine years. There was also danger that if a northern route was rejected after an inquiry everyone would be back to square one.

Those who argued that a joint committee was without precedent were also wrong, he said.

Mr Robert Hughes chief opposition spokesman on transport, said a bypass was long overdue, but there was a feasible alternative route. There were competing reasons for rejecting the southern route. That was so. Two additional pieces of land might be bought to replace the open space lost by the southern route.

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Joseph condemns appalling and deliberate disruption of schools

EDUCATION

In the light of the offers made by the employers to the teachers and the unions' unwillingness to negotiate, there could be no justification for continued industrial action by the teachers, Mr Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during Commons question time.

All others made to the teachers' unions, he said, had been rejected, even a basis for further negotiations, and the appalling, deliberate disruption of children's education continued.

The Government (the continued) will continue to work for a lasting settlement which will raise pay levels for good teachers, reform the career structure, improve promotion prospects and clarify teachers' professional duties. Only such a settlement can lead to progress towards our objectives for better schools for pupils of all abilities.

Mr Jack Dorman (Eastleigh, Lab): The Secretary of State has failed to say this most moderate of professions even though he has reduced the NUT representation on the Burnham Committee. There can only be a settlement if he makes money immediately available to the local authorities.

I do not doubt his sincerity for a moment, but in view of the unprecedented damage he has caused to the education service, he ought to resign immediately.

Sir Keith Joseph: It is not I who brought about an end to the NUT majority on the Burnham Committee. It was the individual decisions of thousands of teachers who left membership of the NUT.

It is not the Government which has failed to pay in this dispute. We have made a substantial, though conditional, offer. It is the teacher unions who have consistently rejected all proposals for negotiation.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Canpoth and Burnmoor, C): The pupils in my constituency are being singled out for punitive action by the NUT. When the £1,250 million of money on the table is a disgraceful performance.

The best service the NAS could do would be to go back to the negotiating table without imposing totally unreasonable pre-conditions. Sir Keith Joseph: I agree. The teacher unions seem to be putting children last in their consideration.

Mr David Evennett (Epsom and Ewell, C): In view of the difficulties we have had this year and last on teachers' pay negotiations, has he any proposals to abolish the Burnham Committee for something different in the future to make negotiations easier for all concerned? Most teachers would like to get back to work and accept the offer, but many of their unions do not want them to.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, and I hope that a Green Paper will be published early in the new year.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C) asked later: Has she seen the article in the *Mail on Sunday* which said the Government has now abandoned its plans for rate reform in England and Wales? In view of her very firm commitment during the Queen's Speech debate, will she confirm this still remains Government policy?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, and I hope that a Green Paper will be published early in the new year.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): As the PSBR

would be £33 billion now and was then the highest ever, at £10 billion, does that not illustrate how seriously the currency has been devalued under her?

Mrs Thatcher: No one in this House can exceed Mr Callaghan's own record for devaluation.

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Sir Keith Joseph: I am ready to take into account any proposal that would enable more sensible negotiations to occur, but unless there is a willingness to negotiate any machinery will not make much difference.

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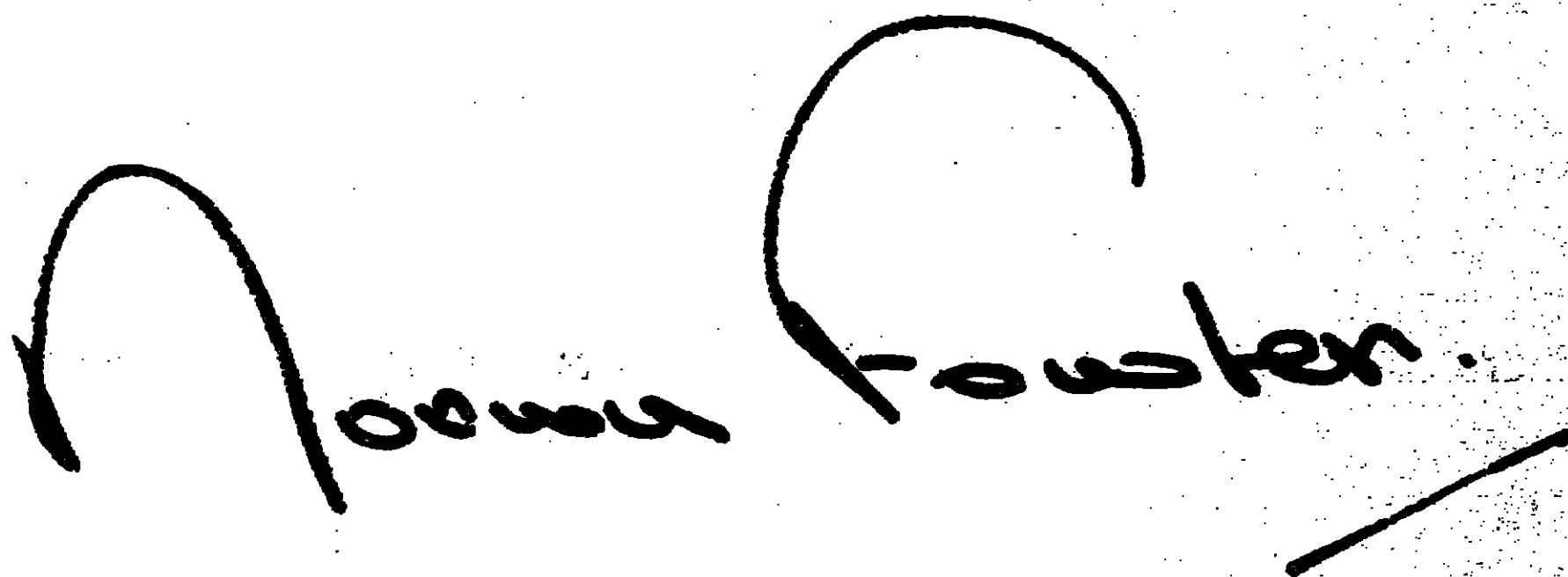
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THIS SIGNATURE COULD MAKE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HOMELESS.



NORMAN FOWLER
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The Government is introducing regulations aimed at new board and lodging claimants. This will be another body-blow against the young unemployed.

Anyone under 26 moving into board and lodgings who can't find work within a few weeks could be told to get out.

Move to another part of the country.

Away from friends, family (if they have one), and contacts.

In practice, many young people choose not to move. Instead they sleep on friends' floors, squat in derelict buildings, or simply disappear, (conveniently reducing the unemployment statistics).

With 3.3 million* people unemployed, the future for our young people is bleak indeed.

But to sign legislation forcing them to move away if they can't find work is, we believe, not just unrealistic. It's inhuman.

*Government Unemployment Figures (September, 1985).

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Briton and wife feared dead as Armero rescue work goes on

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

A British psychologist and his Colombian wife are missing gathering force in the highlands, feared dead in Armero, the small town in central Colombia which was destroyed by mud slides after the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano last week.

David Purvis, aged 32, and his wife Carolina, aged 25, were asleep in a hacienda called La Brisa when disaster struck. The couple, who lived in London, had arrived in Colombia only three days earlier for a holiday. Mrs Purvis is believed to hold both British and Colombian citizenship.

The British Embassy in Bogotá yesterday denied reports that their bodies had been found. The hacienda is buried under 20 metres of mud. Servants in the house are also missing.

Mrs Purvis's father, Señor Alberto Guarnizo, who lives in Bogotá and owns La Brisa, was among many people who pressed the Government not to abandon the search for survivors after it was announced at the weekend that Armero was to be declared *campo santo* - a consecrated mass grave - and fumigated to prevent outbreaks of epidemics. As a result, the Government postponed that decision and allowed the search for survivors to continue.

Armero, formerly a lovely and prosperous little town at the heart of a rice and coffee-growing region in the Tolima department, is reportedly Mrs Purvis's hometown.

Colombia has just conducted its first census in more than a decade, the results of which will not be known until next year. At the last census Armero's population was 21,000. Since then its population is believed to have risen to between 25,000 and 30,000. It is thought that 85 per cent of Armero's population perished in the disaster.

The British Embassy has no other reports of missing British citizens.

Armero survivors have said that ash and volcanic debris began to rain down on the town last Wednesday night. Both the local radio station and parish priest urged calm and insisted there was no danger. Other residents advised their neighbours to take to the hills and to their families to keep out the dust. Calls for a general evacuation were considered alarmist. Meanwhile, flash floods were

RAF delivers food to isolated villages

From Trevor Fishlock, Villahermosa

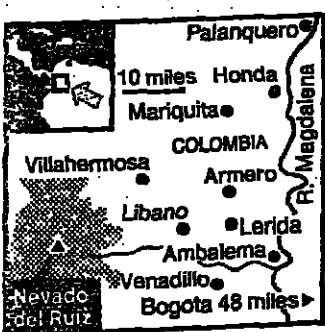
The people of the Andean mountain town of Villahermosa came dashing from their homes as the RAF helicopter wheeled in and settled on a patch of rough open ground.

These people had had no supplies since the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted last Wednesday night. Their town was cut off when roads and bridges were washed away by the torrents of mud and water which engulfed Armero in the valley far below.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Finlay-Maxwell, of 33 Squadron, RAF, Odiham, Hampshire, kept his Puma helicopter hovering as Flight Lieutenant Christopher Perkins, his crewman, aided by a few reporters who worked as temporary unloaders, pushed out boxes of canned food and powdered milk, sacks of rice, disinfectant and medical supplies.

Young men formed a chain to carry the supplies towards the village church. Villagers waved excitedly shouting "gracias gracias", as the helicopter lifted off. The unloading had taken only two minutes.

The helicopter returned to the Palanquero air base on the River Magdalena and was loaded again with supplies for another village several thousand feet up in the mountains.



Volcano threat on Pacific isle

Port Moresby (Reuters) - A volcano in Papua New Guinea's island province of West New Britain has been erupting for 48 hours and poses a potential threat to life and property. Mr Michael Somare, the Prime Minister, said yesterday.

He said there was no immediate danger, but two big flows of lava had been reported moving slowly, one towards a coastal village called Nuau and the other a third of the way to a small airstrip named Sule.

The eruption was about 90 miles south-west of the volcanic centre of Rabaul where hundreds died in 1937.

All smiles as First Ladies hold tea summit



Mrs Reagan (left) and Mrs Gorbachov meeting for tea yesterday in the Maison de Saussure, while their husbands were talking in a nearby villa.

Spotlight on wives after news blackout

From Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent, Geneva

The activities of the leaders' wives is creating almost as much interest as the summit itself. Both are accompanied by a large press posse wherever they go.

Yesterday Mrs Nancy Reagan visited a drug rehabilitation centre in Lausanne and listened to a performance of songs including inevitably, a rendering of "Edelweiss" - by a group of Swiss singers before returning to the Maison de Saussure for her tea party with Mrs Raisa Gorbachov.

It was noted that Mrs Reagan was wearing a bright red scarf. This, it was explained, was because red is Mrs Reagan's favourite colour, and not out of deference to Mrs Gorbachov's political beliefs.

Mrs Gorbachov spent the morning at Geneva's famous clock museum, where she even managed a few words in English for the benefit of American television cameras, to express her admiration for the exhibits she was shown.

She was then taken to the city university library to see where Lenin plotted the revolution that allowed men like her husband to come to power.

Fashion buffs were disappointed to note that Mrs Gorbachov, whose dress sense has attracted much favourable comment during previous visits to the West, was wearing the same outfit she arrived in on Monday.

Reporters have also turned their attention to other, minor topics since the summit leaders decided to impose a news blackout for the duration of their meeting.

For example, much interest had been expressed about the origin of a goldfish which had been left in the room which

President Reagan is using as his study, particularly when it was discovered that the owner had left the President a note asking him to feed it.

After hours of nail-biting delays, the White House staff finally posted a bulletin stating that the fish belonged to Hussein, 11-year-old son of Prince Aga Khan, owner of the Maison de Saussure.

The media were also interested in what sort of underwear President Reagan was wearing when he greeted Mr Mikhail Gorbachov at the first meeting. It was noted that the

President was not wearing an overcoat when he greeted Mr Gorbachov on the steps of the Fleur d'Eau Mansion, where the first round of talks were held.

As the temperature was two degrees below freezing, was it reasonable to assume that the President was wearing special thermal underwear? One otherwise normally serious and sober journalist asked Mr Speaker, the President's spokesman, who replied with a straight face that, as far as he knew, the President was in his customary underwear.

First shots in America's 'Ad Wars'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Lieutenant General Daniel Graham, founder of the Committee for a Strong Peaceful America. The conservative group and others are blanketing local television stations with their sentimental message of cosmic security.

The retaliatory riposte was fired by the Union of Concerned Scientists and other liberals.

And now the empire has struck back. Lucasfilm, makers of the three Star Wars films, has sued both groups for infringement of the copyright on the now famous title. This has nothing to do with anyone's ability to speak on this important issue," the company's lawyer said.

He said the advertisements might mislead the public into thinking that the makers of the science fiction films were for or against SDI. And what of the 14 patents and 55 products already marketed under the Star Wars logo: Is the multi-billion-dollar defence programme to be added to them?

Too late, declare the two protagonists - united for once in common battle. Ignoring the Administration's dictates, the public has long since dubbed SDI Star Wars. The term is now generic, the ad-makers say.

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Wailing Wall plea for Soviet Jews

Thousands of Jews demonstrated at the Wailing Wall yesterday in support of Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel (Jan Murray writes). The prayers of the demonstrators, slipped between the stones of the wall, were meant to be heard in Geneva as much as anywhere else.

Many had come from the United States helped by a \$250,000 anonymous donation made by two survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, had made a direct appeal to the summit.

"Daddy, what is all this Star Wars stuff?" the little girl asked with cloying innocence. Against a crayon drawing of a house, family and beaming sun she lispes the answer to her dead mother's musings: President Reagan, daddy had assured her, wanted to build a peace shield that would "stop missiles" in outer space so they couldn't hit our house."

Half an hour later a sleepy little girl on her bed gazes at the heavens through the open window. Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are... A shooting star slowly descends and explodes with a nuclear blast. "Heavens are for

After 10 years, Franco's ghost goes marching on

The tenth anniversary of Francisco Franco's death, which falls today, has provoked a vigorous debate in Spain about the man and what survives from his 40 years in power. Richard Wigg reports from Madrid.

"Franco," a 16-year-old schoolboy wrote, "represents for me a person who got things done. But if he were alive today he could not rule with the same methods as he did then."

With his class at a Madrid college of further education he had been asked earlier this month to write an essay on the figure of Franco. Often the essays revealed the opinions of parents or today's worries which colour Spaniards' judgements of Franco.

"Some people say that we lived better and others worse but what is clear is that a dictatorship can never have been a good thing," another boy wrote. "Franco was a politician who ruled in a way similar to Hitler," a girl aged 17 thought. But there were many here who backed him enthusiastically. A fourth student wrote: "There was no such shortage then of jobs as now, and criminals and terrorists were under better control."

"Obviously the Socialist Government is not going to celebrate this anniversary," Señor Javier Solana, the government chief spokesman observed wryly, "but I am not going to say some ministers will not quietly get out a bottle of champagne, remembering the clandestinity we lived in then."

Franco's ex-combatants association is making an extra effort to organize a big nostalgic rally next Sunday in the Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, ending up before

the statue of the dictator, which is still in place. The previous day, Franco's widow, Doña Carmen, is attending a Mass celebrated by monks of the Holy Cross of the Valley of the Fallen. Franco's monastery-cum-mausoleum for the victorious side in the civil war where he lies buried in the Guadarrama mountains. The Benedictine monastery is still funded by the proceeds one day every year of Spain's national lottery. Situated 25 miles north of Madrid the memorial is now chiefly a tourist or Sunday excursion spot.

Señor Joaquín Futierrez Cano, one of the dictator's ministers of planning and now executive chairman of the private Francisco Franco Foundation, said Franco's most lasting achievement "was the establishment of a Spanish middle class. This provided a stabilizing mechanism without which the subsequent transition would have been impossible."

Professor José Luis Aranguren, Spain's best known philosopher who is now close to the Socialists, disagreed. The emergence of a broad-based middle class had absolutely nothing to do with Franco," he commented. "The process was part of an industrialization going on throughout southern Europe. It had begun before Franco and would have been as fast, if not faster, without him."

You have to go nowadays to the history books to hear about the grim memories of Franco's earlier rule. Señor Juan Pablo Fusi, a leading young historian, has produced a new biography of Franco distinguished by a remarkable detachment. Now selling well, it requires Spaniards to accept the facts of Franco's implacable repression of his opponents. He quotes a

figure of never less than 10 people a day sent to the firing squads between 1939, when the civil war ended, and 1945. They are also told that the Caudillo genuinely believed he saved Spain from communism by rebelling against the Republic in 1936.

Franco's prolonged decline, almost everyone now sees, allowed the sociological changes which facilitated the subsequent transition of democracy.

After Franco's death the old regime had lost the support of one of its main pillars, the Roman Catholic Church. The armed forces remained intensely suspicious but when the extreme right-wing officers' coup attempt failed in 1981 the road lay remarkably open for a victory by the Socialist Party at general elections only seven years after the dictator's departure.

Behind the political superstructure, however, elements still linger from the Franco era which suggests that Spanish democracy has yet to put down deep social roots.

A corporatist spirit persists among many members of the professions like civil servants, lawyers and doctors. Encouraged by Franco to put their own interests before those of the wider community, these often influential middle class groups battle away still to maintain a privileged status which during the past decade ought to have been attenuated as Spanish society aligned itself elsewhere more with its European neighbours.

Professor Manuel Ramirez, who holds the chair of political science at Saragossa University, argued that the principal bequest of Francoism is a rigid mentality and a poor sense of the general interest.

Unesco chief's plea to Howe

Ministers are expected to decide whether to withdraw Britain from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization after a debate in the Commons on Friday (Rodney Cowton writes).

Yesterday Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had a 20-minute meeting in London with Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Unesco's Director-General, who almost certainly urged Britain to

remain a member. A Foreign Office spokesman said they had had a general discussion on Unesco's recent general conference in Sofia, and Sir Geoffrey made it clear the Government would make its own assessment of the outcome of the conference as the basis for a ministerial decision on the future of British membership.

The meeting was at Mr M'Bow's request. On Monday he also had a meeting with Mr

Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development.

OTTAWA: Canada has joined other Commonwealth countries in urging Britain to stay in Unesco. (AP reports).

The External Relations Minister, Monique Vézina, said Commonwealth high commissioners, including Canada's, had written to Sir Geoffrey Howe to re-state the value the Commonwealth places on British membership.

Woman who rattles Kremlin

From Robert Schuill, Amsterdam

Mrs Irina Grivnina, the Soviet dissident who on Sunday and Monday disrupted Soviet press briefings in Geneva before the superpowers summit meeting, was back in The Netherlands yesterday having, it is reported, been accorded a Swiss visa only until the eve of the summit.

Mrs Grivnina had only been living in The Netherlands for three weeks, since she was unexpectedly told on October 16 by the Soviet authorities that she had to leave Russia by that end of the month.

She had been trying to get an exit visa for the past two and a half years and only a few months earlier the official Soviet press agency Tass had reiterated that she would not be allowed to leave because she had "knowledge of state secrets".

Mrs Grivnina had been accredited to the Geneva conference by Elseviers a conservative weekly Dutch magazine of which she was also a correspondent when still in Moscow. She also wrote with some regularity for other Dutch publications and was then, as now, a member of the Dutch Union of Journalists.

Mr Grivnina ran into trouble with the Soviet authorities after she became a leading member of a working party set up by dissidents in 1977 to gather and spread information on the application of psychiatry in the Soviet Union for political ends.

She was arrested in September, 1980, on charges of "slandering the Soviet Union". After she has spent a year in jail she was sentenced to five years' banishment in Kazakhstan.

She returned to Moscow in 1983 after she had given birth to a daughter. Under Soviet law a person may not be held under arrest while she is pregnant and during the child's first year. The authorities claimed she was residing illegally in the Soviet capital, and she and her family were continually harassed.

Mrs Grivnina applied for an exit visa, but because both she and her husband were computer experts, they were considered to be in possession of state secrets.

Considerable international pressure, in particular from a number of prominent Dutch liberal politicians, was brought to bear on the Soviet Union, but it took two and a half years before Mrs Grivnina and her husband were summoned to the Emigration Office in Moscow to be told that their Soviet citizenship was revoked and that they and their two daughters would have to leave the country by the end of October.

'Muddle-headed' extremists get the blame Athens denies weakness on riots

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece's Socialist Government, baffled and embarrassed by the rioting and disorder fostered in Athens and other cities by left-wing extremists, said yesterday no one should misconstrue its "democratic susceptibility" as weakness.

The warning came as critics of the ruling Socialists deplored the tolerance the government has shown towards fringe militants and their bouts of lawlessness. Invariably described by police as anarchists, they number no more than a few thousands throughout Greece.

Mr Costa Laliotis, the Government spokesman, said: "The Government has both the will and resolve to impose democratic legality. But it will

act only when the limits of dialogue and persuasion are exhausted."

He blamed the upheaval that followed the killing of a teenage demonstrator by police on "muddle-headed, quasi-fascist elements" of the left who used violence to express their loathing for state power.

"They have engaged on the slippery road leading to a vicious circle of destabilization," he said.

As he addressed journalists, representatives of about 1,000 "anarchists" barricaded inside the Athens Polytechnic gave a press conference while the campus was surrounded by police forces with orders not to intervene.

The occupation committee said the polytechnic was seized to protest the death of a 15-year-old schoolboy, but also to demand the disarming of the Greek police, the resignation of the ministers of public order, the release of 37 arrested comrades, and the severe punishment of the policeman accused of killing the boy.

The Government itself clearly hoped to defuse the crisis when it announced the dismissal of three top police generals and the offer by two cabinet ministers to resign.

Yesterday policeman Athanasios Melistas was taken to the prosecutor who charged him with the intentional manslaughter of the schoolboy but "under mitigating psychological circumstances".

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British croupiers jailed for casino cash theft to be freed and sent home

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Four Britons and an American, who have been in prison in the South African tribal homeland of Bophuthatswana since February 1984, are to be released today and deported. The Britons, who will fly to Johannesburg and then catch the overnight British Airways flight to London arriving tomorrow, are Mr. Stephen Evans, aged 29, Mr. Michael Reeves, aged 30, Mr. David

Sanders, aged 30, and Mr. Michael Rothwell, aged 38. The American is Mr. Christopher Giddings, aged 25. All five were sentenced 21 months ago to four years in prison after being convicted of the theft of large sums of money from the Sun City casino in Bophuthatswana where they were croupiers.

They would have been eligible for remission of sentence on January 16 next year, but Bophuthatswana's Prisons Release Board recommended that they should be set free earlier on condition that they were immediately deported.

Three other Britons also convicted of defrauding the casino will stay in prison in Bophuthatswana. They are Mr. Michael Bowman, aged 34, and Mr. Thomas Charnock, aged 34, who were both sentenced to five years in jail, and Mr. James Anthony, who was sentenced to six years.

Mr. Bowman and Mr. Charnock will not qualify for remission until September next year, and Mr. Anthony not until February, 1987. Brigadier Casper Delpert, Commissioner of Prisons in Bophuthatswana, told *The Times*: "Their cases will be looked at later."

The casino case aroused interest because of claims that Britain's non-recognition of Bophuthatswana, which took "independence" from South Africa in 1977 but is not accepted as a sovereign state by the outside world, had deprived the accused of consular assistance and legal representation.

Neither claim is true. The jailed Britons have been visited every three months by officials from the British Consulate-General in Johannesburg, more often than is usual, according to the Consul-General, Mr. Colin Brant. At their trial they were represented by leading South African lawyers.

Mr. Swaran Singh, have agreed to serve on the committee. In Lagos yesterday the Nigerian Government reversed its previous position of non-involvement with the group after southern African states pleaded with it to join, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Bolaji Akinyemi, announced.

The country will be represented in the group by retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, head of state from February, 1976, to October, 1979.

After returning from the conference in Nassau, Mr. Akinyemi had said that Nigeria would not join the contact group because it felt South Africa was unlikely to yield to pressure from such a group and because the sanctions the conference decided against Pretoria were too weak to have any effect.

Mr. Mulrooney said that consideration was now being given to other Canadian nominees. The former Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, Britain's Lord Barber, and a former Indian Foreign Minister,

Police kill blacks after homes are set ablaze

Johannesburg - A new name was added to the lengthening catalogue of South Africa's strife-torn black townships when violence erupted in Leandra, about 60 miles south-east of Johannesburg, yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes).

The police reported that they shot dead two black men and one black woman when they were called in after "a large mob" began stoning vehicles, petrol-bombing bottle stores and burning down the homes of township councillors, widely regarded as government "collaborators".

The Leandra deaths bring to at least 12 the number of blacks known to have died in clashes with the police since Sunday. Nine were killed in the Queenstown region of the Eastern Cape.

Leandra and Queenstown,

though both close to areas where there has been serious and almost continuous unrest for the past year, are not among the districts where the state of emergency, declared on July 21, is in force.

A spokesman for the Leandra Action Committee, representing the township's residents, said the violence was caused by fears that the authorities were about to begin evicting squatters living in temporary shacks on the fringe of the settlement.

Meanwhile, doctors and nurses at Beragwanth Hospital in Soweto, Johannesburg's black satellite township, are reported to be considering sympathetic protest action in support of at least 1,500 student nurses and auxiliary workers dismissed after going on strike for better pay last week.

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Mr. Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, is led away by unidentified men at Beirut airport yesterday after arriving from Paris on his mission to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Egyptian 'charged in Sinai case'

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

The leading Egyptian opposition party newspaper *El-Shaab* reported yesterday that military prosecutors have filed charges of unpredetermined murder against an Egyptian policeman, Mr. Suleiman Khatir, allegedly responsible for killing seven Israelis, four of them children, in the Sinai on October 5.

El-Shaab, the weekly organ of the Socialist Labour Party, said that no trial date has been set for Mr. Khatir, whom officials here say went berserk and opened fire on the seven Israelis. One of Mr. Khatir's superior officers was also reported killed in the incident, but the *El-Shaab* report did not say if he was also being charged with that murder under Egyptian law, premeditated murder carries the death sentence, but a murder charge without premeditation is punishable by life imprisonment reducible to 10 years in jail.

Military prosecutors were not available for comment on the *El-Shaab* story, and Defence Ministry officials said they knew nothing about the case.

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Hint of change in attitude to the PLO by Peres

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, is having a hard battle to keep exclusive control over his Foreign Ministry. The change in American policy, the Prime Minister is reported to have told the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee, is that the PLO could be involved in direct negotiations with Israel without first recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Mr. Peres is said to have agreed to this change, given that the United States still insists on the PLO abandoning terrorism and recognizing the relevant UN resolutions.

Inside the Foreign Ministry, however, the reported change has come as a complete surprise. The ministry's chief spokesman, Mr. Avi Pazner, said categorically: "We have not been informed of any change and we hope that no one in the United States is going to consider that kind of idea."

He also objected to the invitation that Mr. Ezer Weizman, the Alignment Minister without Portfolio, has received from Mr. Esmet Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, to meet in Cairo.

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French hostage mission

Press Union, Mr. Muhammad Baalaki, calling for the release of Michel Carton, aged 62, one of two French diplomats kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad eight months ago, who, according to Mr. Baalaki, was suffering from a serious heart disease. M. Carton's family has had no news from him since September.

The French Government has been negotiating hard behind the scenes for the release of the four Frenchmen.

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Tehran accuses Dutch tug of spying

Tehran (Reuters) - The Iranian Navy is holding the Dutch salvage tug Amsterdam and its 15-man crew incommunicado two weeks after seizing it in a sea-and-air operation, claiming it was probably on a spying mission in the Gulf.

Diplomatic sources said the Amsterdam was seized while towing the stricken Greek tanker Canaria on November 5. Iran's Navy Commander, Captain Hussein Malekzadegan, said that documents seized indicated that the "boats sell information on the situation in the Gulf to passing vessels". Dutch officials replied: "The charge is ridiculous."

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Wall street banker shot dead by woman

New York (Reuters) - A homeless woman murdered a leading foreign exchange dealer and his receptionist at their desks in the Wall Street business district on Monday because she thought he cheated her out of a fortune, police said.

Police said Lois Lang, aged 44, shot Nicholas Deak, aged 30, who built up a financial empire that went into bankruptcy last year, and his receptionist, Frances Lauder, aged 53, after claiming that she was a part-owner of his company and was owed money. Lang, who used a 0.38 gun

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THE ARTS

Television
Unity in diversity

John Freeman reduced Gilbert Harding to tears when he asked about his mother, and last night on *Woman to Woman* (ITV) Miriam Stoppard did the same with Mrs Thatcher in discussing her father. The Prime Minister was describing his last speech as an alderman after being thrown off the council. "In honour I took up this gown, in honour I lay it down." A handkerchief materialized from nowhere to dry a red eye and before you could say "onions" we had rattled on to religion.

Weekend World (LWT) had reassured viewers on Sunday that Brian Walden was talking to "the same prudent old Maggie" - one who may not know the expression "cut the mustard" but can still savour terms like "tommy rot". In a frequently hilarious interview, Miriam Stoppard set out, subtly to see how this Maggie fits the two halves of her life together - Wife and Mother, and Iron Lady. By the end the only daylight cast on the magic of Mrs T - or Mamma Thatcher as she is known in Italy - was that she saw no such division. She runs the country as she runs her home and as her father ran his home before her. That people might not want to live in homes like these seemed beside the point.

Her childhood ("We only had a cold water tap... there was an outside toilet") was spent in the grocery, discussing the rise of Hitler, in collecting two library books every Saturday for her father, "the best read man I ever knew", and in sallying forth with her mother for new settee covers - "a great experience and a great event".

Then came Oxford, marriage to Denis - "the biggest thing in life sorted out" - and the Miracle of Birth. Politics somehow came across as an extension of all this, expressions like "I had to do a Cabinet" implying a trip to that outside loo.

Despite such deprivations, there was a royal air to the interview. In Mrs Thatcher's use of "one" and her habit of interruption. Too often Miriam Stoppard was forced to squeak "Right!" in agreement. Yet, while Walden had been smacked down with "You don't really believe that either, Brian", Stoppard was almost congratulated on asking about things in a totally new light - only to be given the same old answers.

What remained funny was the absurd gap between Thatcher's intentions - which are beyond doubt honourable and worthy - and her delivery of them in that dry sob of a voice, a voice that came from the heart but got unfortunately stage-managed on the way.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Theatre
Maturity hits Broadway

They are dancing down Broadway crying "ole" for Argentina and rejoicing in the graces of middle age. Whereas Bob Fosse stressed angularity and spartan endurance in the contortions of youthful performers in *Dancin'*, a new musical revue on Broadway glorifies the beauty, sensuality and elegance of mature dancers, singers and musicians. *Tango Argentino* (Mark Hellinger Theatre) arrived for a five-week run and has been pressed to stay perhaps for ever by audiences and critics.

Heretofore my response to accordion music has been a fervent wish for an ice-pick. The four accordions, and the violins, piano and bass of *Tango Argentino*'s onstage orchestra are so exhilarating that I even bought their records in the lobby and have been crashing around to their strains ever since. I doubt that anything can transform my natural endowment of two left feet, manacled, but this show creates a dream of grace and agility, and it has been a long time since so many people glided and twirled out of a Broadway theatre.

Except for changing colours on the back wall, the stage trappings and raked bandstand are black. The men's tuxedos and the women's slinky black velvets, satins and nets with fringes, lace ruffles, silvery haliers, feathers and white silk scarves make one wonder how the trend of casual dress took its stranglehold on us.

In couples and ensembles the 14 dancers create magic: a woman's leg caresses her partner's or twines around his hip in the briefest but most erotic of touches, couples' legs twist aloft together as if they were tops repeatedly reversing motion, swiftly to slowly dancers slither around the stage like swooping birds. The dancing has not the smugness of ballroom competitions or the schmaltz of

Hollywood tangos, simply the joyousness of the irresistible and guiltless. Even the singers - who, like the band, perform solos - do not strain like Spanish flamenco singers but add soulful variety to this singular revue conceived and directed by Claudio Segovia and Hector Orezzoli.

Only a block away, performers are also gliding about the stage, but they are on skates and skateboards, in wheelchairs, wheelbarrows and roadsters, on bicycles and a swing, in Andrei Serban's staging of *The Marriage of Figaro* (Circle in the Square). This is one of those productions which provokes love or hate. I loved.

Anyone who now goes to the Circle in the Square expecting a straightforward rendering of a classic has a very short memory. John Malkovich's staging of *Arms and the Man* in at least four jovially clashing acting styles, just closed, and George C. Scott's exuberant upending of two Noel Coward comedies are examples of the Circle's cheeky approach.

Perhaps there may be, as is often argued (especially by playwrights), one "right" way to do a play - exactly as the author wrote it in substance, style and spirit - but almost every good play can be taken on more than one level. In the Circle production, Beaumarchais's revolutionary comedy is a bedroom farce. Its darker dimensions are disguised (Figaro does his monologue while performing acrobatics on a swing) and burlesqued (when she is trying to signal Figaro that Cherubino's orders have been sealed, Suzanne barks like a seal).

The setting is while, the first-act costumes are modern whites and the second-act period blacks. Cherubino (fetiichingly acted by Caitlin Clarke with just a few too many frogs in her throat) and Fanchette are on roller-skates, Bazile is in a wheelchair, and everyone else is

on various wheels here and there. None of this makes any sense, but its execution is zestful, the pace is brisk, and spirits are high.

Christopher Reeve is delightfully deft playing Cary Grant playing the Count. Playing straight whether mid-air, on a bicycle built for two, or grounded, Anthony Head as Figaro and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as Suzanne fit as appealingly into their zany surroundings as they would in the real Beaumarchais play. In the Serban version I have seen only the superficial layer of *The Marriage of Figaro*, but that was so entertaining that I long for the rest.

The announcement of a musical version of *The Diary of Anne Frank* was greeted with even more scepticism than another season's promised musical of *Saint Joan*, which provoked choruses of "Get Me to the Stake on Time". Young Anne (Playhouse 91) is not laughable; it kills its subject with kind intentions. Every good scene in the play and touch of depth in characterization is thrown away in endless and undistinguished songs. A lovely cast led by Tini Alvarez as Anne cannot find life in this dirge.

From the Williamstown Theatre Festival comes a version of Stephen Macdonald's *Not About Heroes* (Lucille Lortel Theatre). According to its programme, this 1982 Edinburgh Festival first fringe award-winner will mark the hundredth anniversary of Siegfried Sassoon's birth in a National Theatre production next February. Skillfully directed by the actress Dianne Wiest, Edward Herrmann as Sassoon and Dylan Baker as Wilfred Owen speak both men's dialogue and poetry from their hearts, and win ours.

Holly Hill

Songs for Stray Cats
Donmar Warehouse

A sometime warehouse shipping clerk, Donna Franceschild has set her new play in the loading bay of a synthesizer warehouse. Since we are in Glasgow, a city which like Liverpool spawns more pop groups than the music industry can possibly find work for, two of the five characters entertain musical ambitions, while a third already has a professional career behind him.

The newcomer in this band of displaced artists is Marie, a homely mother-of-two with a history of mental illness and a home-made song book from which she delivers nine extracts as prelude to the action. Joe Lawrence from the group Denise Black and the Kray

Sisters can certainly sing, but the songs by Richie Rich and Miss Franceschild are sincerely awful, the kind you ask the barman to turn down when they come on the jukebox; perhaps they were meant to be.

As contrasts to this central figure, we find Lionel (the hyperkinetic Peter Capaldi, famous from the film *Local Hero*), a wide-eyed hopeful who spends his evenings auditioning in response to music-print advertisements such as "Wanted: creative bass player with '80s image", and Graeme (the admirable John McGlynn), an ulcerated, embittered rock drummer who once toured with David Bowie's band. Through the rather twee device of their concern for the welfare of the warehouse's cowardly, teenage son, Lionel, Graeme and Marie find themselves drawn together, and the former comes out of his

shell to execute two terrific drum solos on cardboard packing cases.

The other roles are filled by George Rossi (star of another Bill Forsyth film, *Comfort and Joy*) as a porky, ingratiating Barry Manilow fan, and Elaine Collins as the strident hedonist trying to decide which of her two boyfriends she will force to marry her; the scene in the warehouse's lavatory where she and Marie compare notes on the tribulations of being female, Catholic and working-class in Glasgow is quite the best thing in the play.

Pip Broughton's capable production makes no concession to English cars, but the characters' dialect is vital and vividly expressive - "tube" is the perfect epithet for a hopeless dolt.

Martin Cropper



Bundschuh's sensational Judith

invited Matthius, at the age of 30, to become the first and only composer to belong to the Komische Oper's *Dramaturgie*. Meanwhile, since the deaths of Hanns Eisler (his teacher) and Paul Dessau, Matthius has risen to become the most important composer in the German Democratic Republic.

The music for *Judith* reveals quite a departure in Matthius's style. He has always shown unusual ability to write for voices, but he now seems to have the sowing of wild aonon and eleatory oats behind him and (like Penderecki and other composers) to have taken a step back in the direction of freely chromatic romanticism. He has assigned much important music to the chorus - and the Komische Oper's chorists, superbly prepared by Gerhart Wustner, contribute brilliantly to this performance. Matthius has prepared his own libretto, drawing primarily upon the drama which Friedrich Hebbel adapted from the Book of Judith in the Apocrypha. Harry Kupfer, this house's chief stage director, has brought the opera to life in a manner which makes it almost as tense and exciting as a crime thriller.

If *Judith* adds up to a powerhouse of an opera, it also offers the soprano in the title role a part she can really sink her teeth into - a role, in fact, in the great tradition of Salome and Elektra. If it does in fact make less cruel demands

upon the heroine's voice, it also requires an unusual measure of dramatic ability.

As Judith, the young soprano Eva-Maria Bundschuh created something of a sensation. With her face chalk-white, split by a scarlet slash of a mouth, she hurled herself into her portrayal with a vocal, musical and theatrical power which had overwhelmed the opening-night audience by the end of the evening. As her amorous victim Holofernes, Werner Haselau distinguished himself dramatically, but

the pitch of his voice, above a certain level, became imprecise, and so did his diction. Perhaps Kupfer could explain - I cannot - why Holofernes wore spectacles; natives speculated that this touch, for this audience, might evoke associations with Heinrich Himmler - or, possibly, Lavrenti Beria.

In the era of Felsenstein, the utmost clarity of diction was demanded from all singers, and in that regard the standards of the company do seem to have slipped a bit. Those whose diction remains exemplary, however, much to the benefit of their overall characterization, include Christiane Röhr, as Judith's maid Mirza, and Manfred Hopp, as Daniel, fastidiously identified in the programme as "a prophet".

Zimmermann's set evokes oppressive associations with both Piranesi and Manhattan slum tenements, complete with metal fire-escape stairways peopled by the chorists representing Judith's besieged fellow-citizens. The set and Eleonore Kleiber's costumes concentrate on black, white and all the nuances of grey in between.

A few anachronisms do intrude, particularly a sort of coalmine lift-cage with flashing electric lights. The second act, I think, would benefit from a bit of cutting - specifically in Judith's homicidal monologue, which seemed protracted to the extent of diminished dramatic returns. The whole evening, though, added up to a rewarding, exciting operatic experience, and the audience repaid all participants with ovations such as greet very few contemporary operas.

Paul Moor

Present Continuous
Offstage Downstairs

Awakening simultaneous echoes of *Madame Butterfly* and *Educating Rita*, Sonja Lyndon's play tells the tale of a young English teacher who conducts a feminist experiment in Japan. The programme carries an article by Polly Toynbee itemizing the burdensome restrictions imposed on Japanese wives, and the play's opening scenes come over as a continuation of the *Guardian* women's page by other means.

Jane, the teacher, is outraged by the marital servitude of her landlady, and starts giving her English lessons which consist largely of exhortations to rebel against her autocratic husband and the dragonish mother-in-law who grimly goes on her whenever she goes shopping. Settsuko, the wife, is vastly attracted by these views; but she is not strong enough to defy the family alone. So, when Jane tires of village life and moves to Tokyo, Settsuko follows her in a degrading pilgrimage, and finally commits suicide, rejected by city and village alike.

By the end, feminism has failed with a vengeance. But Miss Lyndon grades its stages of failure with great care, and within a form that is almost Japanese in its ceremonial modesty. Instead of naturalistic confrontation, the action consists mainly of letters and

diaries; and, best of all, the lessons, where examples of the present continuous, or the future perfect, are drawn from the frustrations of Settsuko's life and what she might make of it. After a lesson on idiomatic phrases, we find her worrying about upsetting the domestic apple-cart and not wanting to cast a spanner into her teacher's works.

I think Miss Lyndon is mistaken to have used jealousy (when Jane acquires a new friend) as a mainspring of the plot. But the real weakness of Penny Casdagli's production is in presenting pupil (Sayo Inaba) and teacher (Carol Leader) respectively as embodiments of helpless pathos and bumptious insensitivity. For one thing, this prevents the intended friendship from developing between them. For another, Miss Leader projects such an image of a polytechnic activist bending the rice-paper walls with her torrents of self-righteous indignation that there is nowhere for the play to go.

More tactfully performed, it would come as an electrifying shock to hear her finally rejecting Japan for the Brazilian Indians as more deserving her attention: jack-booted sociology taking over from colonial despoliation. Played as it is here, the natives would take one look and vanish into the rain forest. Zienia Merton contributes a calmly eloquent performance as the acceptable face of Japanese womanhood.

Irving Wardle

Jazz
Charlie Watts
Orchestra

Ronnie Scott's

You and I probably dreamt of opening the battling for England or commanding the footplate of the Flying Scotsman. Charlie Watts yearned for the driving-seat of a swinging big band, and a career behind the drums with the Rolling Stones has given him the means to realize his fantasy.

Watts's very big band - 29 pieces, plus two singers - opened a week's residency at Ronnie Scott's on Monday night in the kind of atmosphere, with paparazzi firing flashbulbs like semi-quaver runs at the cheerleading off-duty Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, that suggested someone had accidentally double-booked a Jazz at the Philharmonic concert and the wrap party for *Absolute Beginners* into the club.

"Needs another couple of drummers", Pete King, Scott's partner, remarked with a flash of deadpan bebop humour as Watts, John Stevens and Eydor launched hungrily into their kits sounding like a couple of fat men falling down the narrow staircase to the club's basement bar. Watts is one of rock 'n' roll's more reliable timekeepers, but he lacks the finer skills of jazz drumming and has done well to seek support. No band, however, really needs three drummers - or five tenor saxophones, although the chase choruses on "Lester Leaps In" between Danny Moss, Don Weller, Alan Skidmore, Bobby Wellins and Courtney Pine made a thrilling spectacle, young Pine taking the verdict on a knock-out.

Alan Cohen, the band's musical director, found appropriate settings for Ray Warleigh's ripe alto saxophone in "Flamingo". Stan Tracey's piano in "Prelude to a Kiss", Jimmy Deuchar's flugelhorn and Peter King's alto saxophone in "Lover Man" and Gail Dorsey, an impressive young singer, in the tricky "Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most". Jael Bruce, though, attacked his cello all night without producing an audible note. Another couple of cellos, Charlie?

Richard Williams



Christopher Reeve delightfully deft as the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*, with Caitlin Clarke (left), Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Dana Ivey

London débuts

Arthur Janzen chose London's first real winter night for the *Winterreise*, which marked his London debut. It was a courageous choice, and particularly so for a tenor, but it just failed to recreate the peculiar chill of Schubert's "shuddering" settings of Wilhelm Müller.

Janzen's tenor is light, well-groomed, and worn with great charm. But it was the grooming of which were primarily aware: the rhythmic exactness, the assiduous word-placing, the calculated dotting of every "r", and crossing of every "l", weakened the cycle's own impetus and seemed to shackle rather than liberate any overall interpretative concept Janzen might have had.

With a voice both agile and capable of sustaining the full weight of "Das Wirtshaus" and "Die Nebensonnen", Janzen needs to assimilate longer, dare more, but be supported by more courageous playing than the sensitive but small-scale accompanying of Johannes Jensen.

Jeremy Carter (piano) and Caroline Dearnley (cello), both South-East Arts Young Musicians, shared a Wigmore Hall recital. Carter showed off a technique of striding power and well-knit strength in the Bach-Busoni Chaconne and revealed an awareness of his instrument's shifting timbres which served him well in Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales*. But fluency and flair are not all. The Ravel and Chopin's *Barcarolle* showed his need to search further for detailed and idiomatic individuality, and to examine in greater depth his own responses to the works in hand.

Dearnley, on the other hand, showed scrupulous care in nuances of phrasing and dynamics, but as yet is over-timid in her bowing and at times insufficiently incisive in her fingerwork to project what are often imaginative responses.

Hilary Finch

Tense as a crime thriller

Judith
Komische Oper, East Berlin

Siegfried Matthius has composed six operas, three of them unveiled at East Berlin's Komische Oper. I have written in these pages about four of them, including *Onphale* in Weimar and, most recently, *The Lay of Love and Death of Cornet Christoph Rilke* at the rebuilt Dresden State Opera. *Judith*, his newest opera, emerges as an impressive accomplishment, both musically and dramatically - the most powerful work of his that I know - and the Komische Oper's stunning production (conducted by Rolf Reuter, staged by Harry Kupfer, designed by Reinhart Zimmermann and Eleonore Kleiber) provides ample evidence that this remarkable company, in spite of changes of administrative regime, still maintains standards as high as any in the world.

Austria's legendary Walter Felsenstein, whom the Soviet occupation authorities invited to found his company in 1947 and who developed it until his death in 1975, himself enjoyed an unique reputation as the world's greatest theatrical genius since Konstantin Stanislavsky, but he also had an auxiliary genius for recognizing young talent and engaging it early for his Komische Oper. It was Felsenstein who

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Jazz
Charlie Watts
Orchestra

Ronnie Scott's

Ronnie Scott's

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SPECTRUM

Forty years after the Nazi war trials began, the question remains - was justice done?

Nuremberg: the judgement of history

In 1945, the leaders of the Third Reich were put on trial by the Allies for "crimes against humanity." But Frank Johnson reports from Bonn that critics now claim the trials were political and the charges had no basis in law

Forty years ago this morning, the Nuremberg trials began. Brought up in groups of three or four from a passage which led from a prison, the 21 defendants stepped through a sliding door and into the courtroom.

Prison and courtroom are still in use today. The courtroom is the setting of a murder trial of much greater interest to the local population than the memory of the trial which opened on November 20, 1945.

Whatever the federal republic's enemies may say, very few West Germans today espouse the same cause as the defendants of November 20, 1945. But, by grim coincidence, one of those few, Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, aged 46, a member of a neo-Nazi group which was disguised as a sports club, in that same courtroom this week, was on trial for ordering the murder of a Jewish couple - allegedly in order to gain the favour of Palestinian terrorists.

The trial has been going on for a year. The panelled courtroom, well-lit by four large windows, looks as it did 40 years ago, but the proceedings are attended by only judges, lawyers and accused. Hoffmann, whose girl and large beard make him look affable, sits where those earlier accused sat. He often smiles.

To mark the anniversary, the city's Chamber Theatre is staging a reading from the transcript of the proceedings of 40 years ago. But more importantly, an international group of jurists is having a conference about the consequences of the trial, and a delegation of Nicaraguans is visiting the city and is said to be about to embark on a denunciation of the United States' actions towards their regime - invoking various precedents erroneously believed to have been established in this city.

Most of the people of Nuremberg will spend the day as they spend most days. Many will work in high-technology industries, since Nuremberg is part of West Germany's "silicon" region. In the evening, many of the young will gather in the pubs of the restored medieval city centre which is a favourite meeting place. But the majority of families will stay at home and watch television, since Nurembergers are not visibly different nowadays from anybody else.

Whatever they do, there will be a lot of consumption of the local dish of *Nürnberger Würstchen*: small sausages which, if ordered in a restaurant, come arranged on a pile of sauerkraut, or are eaten three-at-a-time in a bread roll, if it is a take-away. In 1945 hardly anyone seems to have envisaged that the Nurembergers, or any other Germans, would be living such a comfortable life even 40 years on.

Certainly not the 21 defendants. Their school of economics, in so far as they had one, taught that prosperity would come about as a result of conquest in the east. Hitler, Goebbels, and Himmler had killed themselves. Bormann was missing. The 21 included the three most senior survivors: Goering, Ribbentrop, and Hess. The others were as follows:

Alfred Rosenberg, customarily described as the party philosopher, but also minister for the occupied eastern territories; Hans Frank, governor of Poland; Wilhelm Frick, Protector of Bohemia and Moravia; Fritz Sauckel, organizer of slave labour; Albert Speer, architect, economic planner and minister of armaments; Walther Funk, another economic planner; Hjalmar Schacht, holder of various economic posts; Franz von Papen, mainly a diplomat; Konstantin von Neurath, foreign minister before Ribbentrop; Protector of Bohemia and Moravia from 1939 until 1941; Baldur von Schirach, organizer of the Hitler Youth, later governor of Vienna; Arthur Seyss-Inquart, ruler of Austria after the Anschluss, later Commissioner of Holland; Ernst Kaltefleiter, head of the Gestapo and of the concentration camps; Julius Streicher, anti-Semitic propagandist; Wilhelm Keitel, chief of staff of the high command; Alfred Jodl, chief of the operations staff; Erich Raeder, commander-in-chief of the navy until 1943; Karl Dönitz, successor of Raeder as commander-in-chief of the navy, briefly head-of-state in 1945 and testament; Hans Fritzsche, a director of press and radio propaganda.

Nine of them - Ribbentrop, Keitel, Kaltenbrunner, Rosenberg, Frank, Frick, Streicher, Jodl, and Seyss-Inquart - were hanged just under a year later in the gallows (now destroyed) next to the prison. Goering was also sentenced to death, but on the night of the execution he was found in his cell, dying from a cyanide pill which no one knows for sure how he got.

Schacht, Papen and the obscure Fritzsche - who had probably been indicted only because he was the only senior propagandist available in the absence of the dead Goebbels - were acquitted, to the irritation of the Soviet judges. The rest received varying prison sentences. Only Hess lives on, still in Spandau. Another defendant - Robert Ley, an organizer of slave labour - strangled himself with a towel in his cell before the trial started.

A lawyer connected with the preparation of the Allied case told me



On trial: four of the German hierarchy during a courtroom recess (circled and pictured right, from top): Rudolf Hess, Hermann Goering, Alfred Jodl and Albert Speer

that the trading of sentences between the judges of the four judging powers - the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and France - involved rough justice.

One typical example was that the British judge originally wanted a prison sentence for Jodl rather than death. The Russians wanted death for Speer rather than prison. Britain was especially opposed to death for Speer. Britain saved Speer by agreeing to death for Jodl, which was carried out. The American judge at first sided with the Russians in wanting death for Speer, only to switch the next day to support the relatively light sentence of 20 years. Speer survived to write the last of the important memoirs from any leader of the Third Reich.

The defendants faced a complicated indictment only because he was the only senior propagandist available in the absence of the dead Goebbels - were acquitted, to the irritation of the Soviet judges. The rest received varying prison sentences. Only Hess lives on, still in Spandau. Another defendant - Robert Ley, an organizer of slave labour - strangled himself with a towel in his cell before the trial started.

At the time, hardly anyone questioned the validity of the charges or the competence of the court. One of the few who did was Senator Robert Taft, who was the leading conservative candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. His doing so was so remarkable that John F. Kennedy later used it as one of the examples in his book *Profiles in Courage*.

Since 1945, however, the belief has gained support that the trial had no basis in law. Mr A. J. P. Taylor in his very influential and very misleading *Origins of the Second World War* (1961), was so pleased at discovering that one of the prosecution's captured German documents was not very reliable, that he mocked "those who believe the evidence of political trials".

The offences did not exist before they were put into the indictment, it is said, therefore the defendants could not have known they were breaking any law. In any case, the court had no jurisdiction other than that granted it by conquest.

It is also pointed out that the court consisted of countries which had themselves committed war crimes.

Depending on their political persuasion, the critics describe these crimes as the invasions and massacres carried out by the Soviet Union, the British bombing of German civilians, and the American use of the Atom bomb. Moreover, those said to possess "war guilt" were really just people who had lost a war. Illegality had nothing to do with it.

Even if it were true that there was no such crime as waging aggressive war, it was also true that there was once no such crime as murder. But another commemoration taking place this year - the 60th anniversary of the Locarno Treaty - is a reminder that aggressive war was already illegal. That treaty was part of a series of accords in the 1920s which culminated in the Kellogg-Briand Pact of Paris and which forbade countries from settling their differences by war. Germany was a signatory.

Would-be sophisticates, and believers in *realpolitik*, will argue that such pacts were simply a series of pieties, that "there is no such thing" as international law, and that superior force decides the relationship between countries. Much of that is true. Superior force put the defendants in the dock in Nuremberg. But force for once had law on its side.

Counting the cost of drug misery

An examination of addiction in Britain today
by Jõe Collier and Hamid Ghodse

Each week last year Britain spent £440 million on drugs. The Department of Health spent £30 million on prescribed drugs; the public £28 million on over-the-counter medicines, £275 million on alcohol, £111 million on nicotine (cigarettes) and £17 million on caffeine (tea and coffee). The weekly death toll was at least 2,000: cigarettes killed 1,900, 60 died from medicines (distalgesic or similar compounds accounting for five) and alcohol 40.

Britain is thus a nation of drug users in which the more extreme manifestations such as compulsive use of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine are inevitable. Last year 12,500 users of these drugs were known to the Home Office, with probably a further 50,000 users not registered. The amount of money spent on drugs by unregistered patients is not known but it may be as high as £7 million to £8 million a week while the mortality for drug abusers in 1984 was about 20 per week.

Historical, legal and social pressures have conspired to produce an artificial grouping of drugs known colloquially as "hard" and "soft" drugs. They are graded into classes broadly according to their harmfulness when misused: Class A drugs include the strong opiates such as heroin, morphine, opium, cocaine and LSD. Class B drugs include weak opiates, cannabis, some barbiturates and stronger amphetamines. Class C drugs include the weaker amphetamines.

The arbitrary nature of regulations is of some interest. Pharmacologically there is little in common between drugs for example cocaine, heroin and cannabis - except that they affect the mind.

Deadly danger of infection by dirty syringes

Cocaine and heroin are obviously dangerous drugs to take, but so, too, is nicotine. Cigarettes kill 100,000 people a year, controlled drugs just over 1,000. Dependence on heroin and cocaine is clearly sinister, but other drugs can produce more widespread dependence: 200,000 patients are dependent on benzodiazepines. What distinguishes the Class A drugs is the enormous risk for everyone who takes them.

Evidence suggests that for every one of the 12,500 patients known to be dependent on Class A drugs there are at least four not known to the Home Office. In the 1970s new addicts increased by about 7 per cent per year, in the early 80s the increase reached 40 per cent but from 1983 to 1984 the number of new notifications

was 29 per cent (from 4,186 to 5,415).

The dangers relate both to the drugs themselves and to the way they are used. Opiates can severely depress breathing and, if given in overdose, may kill. Barbiturates affect breathing similarly. Cocaine and amphetamine stimulate the central nervous system and, in so doing, can cause psychotic states which may cause the patients to act to endanger their lives. However, it is their stimulant effect on the heart which is the more common cause of death. Cannabis may also cause psychosis, but in general its effects are not in themselves serious.

Another peril is infection from dirty syringes. Hepatitis, infection of the heart valves, and abscesses in the lungs or brain are all common.

The Ministry of Health Service, treatment are drug-dependency units (14 in London; others in all the major cities). The primary aim is to offer medical and psychological support aimed either at helping the patient withdraw, or to contain the drug requirement in a manner least likely to cause damage.

Scared addicts don't want their names on file

In addition to the units there are voluntary agencies (actually 90 per cent funded by Government) which provide residential or social care.

One way to improve matters would be to persuade more users to attend NHS Units. However, many are frightened to have their names on a Home Office file and, anyway, if only 10 per cent were suddenly to switch to DHSS clinics these could not cope as they are severely understaffed and underfunded.

More effective confiscation of drugs at ports or by the police would reduce availability of black market drugs. Last year Customs and Excise made 3,323 seizures of controlled drugs (equivalent to a street value of about £100 million) and the police made 25,233. But the Home Office estimate that this is probably only about 15 per cent of the drugs intended for circulation.

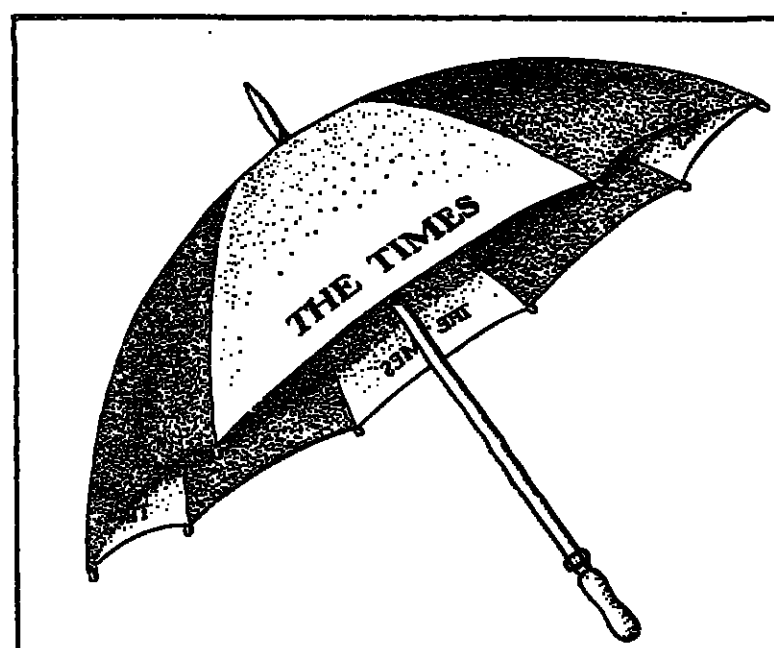
There is an urgent need to improve facilities for treatment and rehabilitation. However, the Government's provision for improving care has been, and continues to be, pitiful, as is the £60,000 a year the DHSS provides for research on treatment methods.

Many feel that prevention is the only solution but this needs a successful programme of information and education.

However, with our national obsession with drugs and other chemical comforts this drive will have to be directed at all levels of society.

Joe Collier is a senior lecturer in clinical pharmacology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. Hamid Ghodse is the Director of the Drug Dependency Treatment Unit at St George's Hospital.

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The hard sell behind television's soft soap

John Forsythe, who plays Blake Carrington, the rich patriarch of *Dynasty*, was passing through Atlanta Airport a year ago when a very elegant lady crossed the concourse towards him shouting: "Mr Carrington, Mr Blake Carrington."

He smiled in acknowledgement. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself," she shouted in a haughty Southern accent. "How dare you treat your lovely wife Krystle so badly and be nice to that awful Alexis." Then she hit him with her Gucci handbag.

John James, who plays Jeff Colby in the same programme, was returning from a summer safari in Kenya when the plane landed at 4 am at the remote Mogadishu airport in Somalia. As he left the plane, he was recognized and pursued across the tarmac by a bunch of Arab traders shouting: "Jeff Colby! Jeff Colby!"

Soap opera stars have always had to live with the fact that some people insist on believing the fantasy. Thirty years ago in this country thousands of radio listeners wept on the night that Grace Archer died in a fire. The episode was written to combat the launching of TTV.

But two factors make *Dynasty* and *Dallas* more worthy of examination and more open to criticism. First is the awesome scale of the interest in them - 250 million viewers in more than 80 countries - and hence the vast influence of the images presented. It would be perfectly understandable if a peasant in Peru or Papua thought that all Americans lived like they do in *Dynasty* or behaved like they do in *Dallas*.

Second, it is the programme-makers themselves, in these two cases, who have further encouraged the crossover between fact and fiction by marketing merchandise aimed at bringing the fantasy into everyday life.

You like Krystle Carrington's



Esther Shapiro: co-creator of *Dynasty* and a fortune teller

eternal devotion to her husband Blake? Then buy your wife Forever Krystle perfume at £53 an ounce. You like Alexis Carrington's sexually aggressive clothes? Then slip down to Harrods and buy the real thing at £246. You can buy JR's hat and imagine you are a bit like him, or a Dallas boardgame and behave a lot like him.

The motive is profit through entertainment, and why not? But doesn't such global power, also have responsibilities?

Lee Rich, the 60-year-old head of Lorimar, which produces a whole host of television shows as well as regular feature films, is quick to agree: "Of course we have responsibilities, but our primary one is to our American audience."

"This box has been sitting in their home now for 35 years and it is part of their lives. If you don't treat them with respect they'll turn it off. But I have to hope that coincides with what foreign audiences want."

One country for whom *Dallas* certainly did not translate was

Japan. The "Who Shot JR?" episode was watched by 120 million people - more than had voted in the presidential election a few days earlier - but it was never shown in Japan, because the whole series was axed through massive lack of interest.

The Japanese were avid for anything American in the aftermath of the Second World War, but since then their living standards have risen. When faced with *Dallas* they were not impressed by the lifestyle of the characters, nor, in the land of the Samurai, by their skulduggery.

The Israelis, however, were vastly impressed. The lifestyles of the characters, business practices and backstabbing - as fantasy - struck a chord, right up to the level of Menachem Begin himself.

Dynasty, with its opulence and glamour, vastly impresses the Norwegians, but impresses the British far less. We appear to think there is very little the Americans can show us about taste and style.

"We have been very careful to find out as far as we can what effect we are having," says *Dynasty* co-creator Esther Shapiro. "We are happy that most people see the programme as a fantasy - and a pretty tongue-in-cheek one at that."

Dallas and *Dynasty* are essentially fantasies about power, money and sex. Both are about the rich, about people who live beyond the rules. Both contain people with problems, problems that many of our audience have. They can feel comforted that these extraordinary people have the same difficulties in life.

"For example, when Blake Carrington first talked to his son about his homosexuality we got hundreds of letters from anxious parents asking for the script so that they might try to tackle the problem the way Blake did. Incidentally, they

were clearly aware of the borders of fact and fantasy."

But isn't there a danger, with the marketing in the last year of 200 *Dynasty* products from wallpaper to bedlinen, to dolls, clothes and perfume - and sales of around £210 million in that time - that people, particularly women, are being encouraged to cross over the border from reality to fantasy?

It is significant that the *Dynasty* range of products has not done well - perhaps because men don't want to live any part of the fantasy. The only exceptions are the card and board games, which are fantasy in themselves. But *Dynasty* products, particularly the clothes, are selling well.

"Nobody watching *Dynasty* who then goes out and buys an Alexis dress, or Forever Krystle perfume, is going to live in that fantasy," says Esther Shapiro.

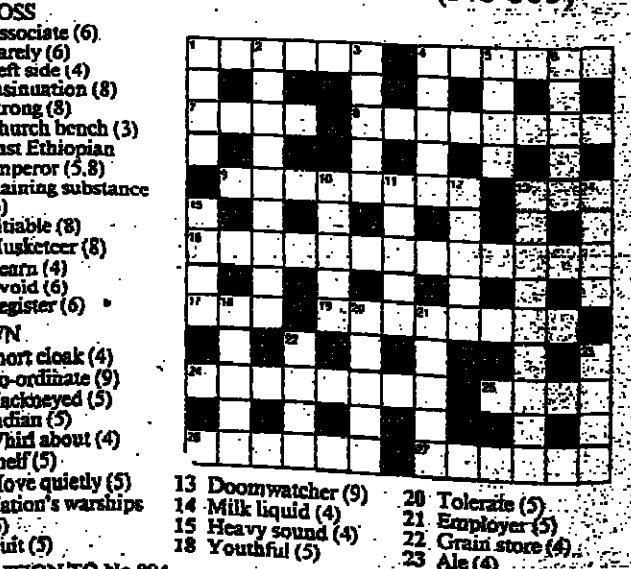
"She is just joining in the fun of it and maybe wishing a bit."

You could be forgiven for doubting her only slightly if you had been present a year ago when the range of *Dynasty* items was launched at Bloomingdale's in New York. Twenty-six thousand women stormed the store, reducing the whole neighbourhood to chaos. Inside, Mrs Shapiro, who created the whole licensing deal, which stands to make her a great deal of money, looked down from an upper floor at the hundreds of arms stretched out to Linda Evans at the perfume counter and it passed through her mind that one of her fantasies had just become fact.

She had created Blake Carrington, patriarch of the fantasy empire, but that day she became him.

Rodney Tyler

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The Royal Family's tradition of personal patronage is raising money for research into birth defects

Why the Princess is going to the charity ball

Q Do you think that the Birthright Ball will help to spread the message about the society's work, or is it primarily a fund-raising exercise? Is there a danger that this vital and serious work will be overshadowed by the glamour of the occasion?

A The Birthday Ball is a very special occasion because it is a celebration of 10 years of research by Birthright for healthy babies and women. I know that most of the people attending will be well aware of the work of the charity and its seriousness.

I think that I have become patron of Birthright at a time when the charity is rapidly growing and at a time when research is moving ahead faster than ever before. In the past 10 years, much of the work of Birthright has been concentrated on the detection of disease and abnormality and on new types of treatment for those babies who were unfortunately born with such difficulties.

New work on the supplementation of women's diets with zinc seems to promise fewer cases of spina bifida for instance. Another new centre is starting which will investigate the mother's immune response to pregnancy and this response seems, Birthright feel, to lie at the root of problems as diverse as miscarriage, high blood pressure during pregnancy and even, it seems, prematurity.

I shall go to the ball secure in the knowledge that it will play a major part in the funding of this work. So I really feel that as patron I have helped to raise substantial sums of money and see Birthright's research at first hand.

Q Are you shocked at the number of perinatal deaths (10,000 per annum) in spite of advances in medical science? Do you think the public should be made more aware of these frightening figures, or is there a danger of scaring first-time mothers?

The Princess of Wales, patron of Birthright, tells Suzy Menkes about her hopes for healthy babies on the eve of the Birthday Ball at the Royal Albert Hall

A Yes I was shocked by the figures. I think every pregnant mother worries about her baby and nearly every mother's first question is "Is it alright?" I believe most women are aware of the risks.

I know that the office receives many inquiries from mothers pregnant for the first time and although the Birthright literature concentrates on the tragedy, the staff take great care to point out that there are still well over half a million women having healthy babies every year.

Q Since you became patron of Birthright in 1984, have you been actively involved in the charity? For instance, have you taken any interest in special projects or research into birth problems and subsequent handicap? And have you viewed personally any of Birthright's work?

A When I became patron of Birthright I was expecting Harry and I opened the Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine at King's College Hospital, London. Much of the centre's work is aimed at the early detection of abnormalities and the treatment of babies with special difficulties whilst still in the womb.

There is also very interesting work being carried out on the level of blood flowing through the placenta which is of vital importance to the health and growth of the baby.

This is assessed using a new type of "noisy ultrasound" and I have met several women who had been able to have healthy babies through close monitoring with this device in the latter part of their pregnancies.

Birthright is hoping to open many more research centres around the country and indeed since I have become patron, another Harris Birthright Centre has opened at St Mary's Hospital, London, which has been undertaking very successful work on the treatment of recurrent miscarriages.

Q Do you see your role primarily to help with fund-raising by lending your presence to efforts such as the Birthright Ball? Or is it to help spread the word about Birthright and the aims of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists? Or both?

A I am very aware that an event like the Birthday Ball can make a profound difference to the charity's income - the organizers hope to raise over £100,000 and in terms of Birthright's research this is the cost of funding one research unit for a year or four smaller research projects for two years. However, Birthright's fund-raising is very diverse and I am just as interested in the work of its many local branches around the country.

Q Do you yourself have any views about childbirth? For example, do you believe that women should be encouraged to choose for themselves between home and hospital births, or between natural childbirth and assisted deliveries? Or does your experience and understanding of Birthright's work suggest to you that only doctors can make such a decision?

A Much of Birthright's support comes from women who have had healthy babies. I know that it is when you have your own baby that you realize how fortunate you are that your child has that special birthright of good health and freedom from handicap. However, many of the women helped by Birthright have had



Royal motherhood: the Princess of Wales with her two sons Prince William (centre) and Prince Henry

problems with their pregnancies and it is perhaps inevitable that this group of women have their babies in hospital. In fact a number spend long periods of time in hospital either before or after the birth of their babies, as they may need prolonged special care.

Of course, Birthright hopes, particularly with women who have been successfully treated for infertility or for a problem like recurring miscarriage, that they go on to have normal births but naturally the way

they choose to deliver their babies is a matter for discussion between them and their doctor or midwife.

Q Are you interested also in funding other projects, for example the gynaecological laser treatment of cervical cancer? Or is your own interest primarily in the right of every woman to give birth to a healthy child?

A My primary interest is concerned with the right of every mother to give birth to a healthy child, but

Birthright's research covers a wide variety of distressing problems.

One such area is infertility research and Birthright is about to launch a new research centre in Reproductive Medicine in Sheffield which will be investigating the causes of infertility. About 40 per cent of infertility is unexplained and this will be the main impetus of the research. To long for a child and not be able to have one I imagine must be a nightmare.

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Funding for a child's right to health

Birthright is the appeal arm of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The Princess of Wales takes a particular interest in the charity and became its patron in 1984; gynaecologist, Mr George Pinder, is a leading member of its council. Since she became a mother, the Princess of Wales has taken a special interest in Birthright's research into the continuing problems of still birth, infant death and infertility. As she says: "to long for a child and not to have one... must be a nightmare".

The charity was founded as the Childbirth Research Centre at University College Hospital in 1964 by an obstetrician who was deeply concerned about problems during birth and subsequent death or handicap. Over the last 21 years, the perinatal mortality rate has decreased substantially, due to work on the survival of premature babies. But much research still needs to be done on the problems of babies both before and after birth, especially where these can cause handicaps.

Birthright gained its official title after it came under the wing of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Its most recent projects, using the funds raised, have been research into infant breathing and the function of the placenta.

The Princess of Wales has watched the work and made a private visit to Birthright's cubby-hole of an office in the shadow of the Regent's Park mosque.

Princess Diana's unflinching interest in medical details is in marked contrast with royal views a century ago, when Queen Victoria described childbirth as the moment "when our poor nature becomes so very animal and unattractive." The Princess of Wales shows herself to be in tune with contemporary women.

The organizers of the Birthday Ball hope to raise more than £100,000. The event is sponsored by Cartier, the jewellers, Charles of the Ritz, the cosmetics company, Harpers & Queen magazine and Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge store.

Reports on the Princess of Wales's attendance at the ball are likely to concentrate on her ball gown. But Her Royal Highness is determined that the aims of Birthright are understood by the widest possible audience.

Birthright is at 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SP.

It's street theatre New York style

SUNDAY

Arrive in New York in time to see the end of the Marathon. The old and lame are still bravely crossing the finishing line in Central Park seven hours after the start. I don't think I could complete 26 miles, even if I had 26 hours to do it. New Yorkers love street theatre and people are still hanging around, shouting encouragement: "Go for it, go for it".

The sight of so much exercise makes me hungry and we adjourn to a coffee shop on Sixth Avenue for a bite. A bite is not really the right word to describe a club sandwich, since it takes several bites to encompass the generous height of the stacked fillings. Mind you, it costs over £5 so it might be generous. Decide not to convert dollars into pounds or I will get indigestion every time I eat something.

MONDAY

The disc jockey on the classical music channel (who seems, surprisingly, to be English) unleashes a magnificent pun on my jet-lagged ears - "Smetana, a man who knew on which side his bride was battered". He ought to be given the OBE for that kind of devotion to the English language.

Go to a rather odd private view of Al Hirschfeld's drawings in the consulting rooms of a plastic surgeon. The apartment is very grand and slap up against Central Park. Stretch limos purr outside the front door. A tall vision of female perfection offers us a glass of champagne. "No brain", hisses

MEL CALMAN'S DIARY

TUESDAY

A cabbie tells me he has to work 17 hours a day, five and a half days a week to make a living. The next cabbie I use snorts when I tell him this information. "Nonsense. No guy can work 17 hours a day. He just said that to entertain you. All New York cabbies think they're in the entertainment business and most of them are working on their movie scripts."

Private view of Toulouse-Lautrec drawings and graphics at the Museum of Modern Art. I like the little notes to his printer, carefully detailing how much he is owed. Nice to see that geniuses fret about money as much as commercial artists do.

WEDNESDAY

Phone clients who are either on the phone, in a meeting, or in England.

Supper at Al Hirschfeld's house - a brownstone in the upper Eighties. Lillian Gish is there - 90 years old and still working. She says she has just finished a film with Alan Alda (she plays a nymphomaniac

you say 'TOMATO' and I say 'TOMATO' - let's call the whole thing on!



mother) and was up filming the previous day until 5am. I wish I could find and bottle that kind of energy. Hirschfeld himself is over 80 and draws every day.

I sit next to a fascinating Japanese lady, Yetsuko, who has her own TV show in Tokyo. She tells me her autobiography sold 6 1/2 million copies in Japan alone. We talk about our wartime childhoods and I realize, with a shock, that though we were on opposite sides, we have more in common (shortage of food and rationing, for one thing) than we have with the Americans.

SUNDAY

Join some friends for the brunch ritual. At the deli I order a turkey sandwich, with lettuce and tomato. The waitress says: "I just love the way you say 'tomato'. Please say it again." This is a delicious new experience. After a lifetime of trying to please women, here is a woman who only wants me to say "tomato" to make her happy.

Go to rest our feet at the Plaza for tea. The Palm Court is pretty, the cakes are pretty and the china is pretty. It's only the waiter who seems so unpretty. Perhaps his feet hurt. He doesn't ask me to say "tomato". I guess you can't charm them all.

Wild ways with mushrooms



Shona Crawford Poole



the same price, give sound advice on safe identification for those with enough motivation to study the subject.

There is not much incentive to bone up on the mores of mushrooms if opportunities for keeping your eye in are scarce. I did once find shiny brown caps growing under a tree not two minutes from Marble Arch. But that kind of find cannot be relied on like the sure supplies of dried caps labelled porcini in Italian grocers. Supermarkets and occasional greengrocers sell fresh, cultivated oyster mushrooms, but report poor sales. Sainsbury plan to stock them later this month. Waitrose already do, but Safeway have dropped them.

Marks and Spencer have taken a completely different initiative by offering fresh shiitake or Chinese black mushrooms in selected stores. These are grown in Singapore, cost £1.49 a box and have a marvellous velvet texture.

If everyday cultivated mushrooms are the only kind that come your way, it is consoling to remember that most mushroom recipes are interchangeable between varieties of fungi.

I think the reason oyster mushrooms have been a disappointment commercially is the lack of information on cooking them. The ones I have eaten have not been as tender as field mushrooms, and when cooked they have retained more than other varieties of the cool earthy smell of raw mushrooms. Serve them creamed on toast or heap the mixture on pastry tart cases.

Creamed oyster mushrooms
Serves 2
170g (6oz) fresh oyster mushrooms
30g (1oz) butter
Salt
Small clove garlic, peeled
4 tablespoons double cream
Freshly ground black pepper

Trim the stems of the mushrooms, removing any woody areas of stalk, then slice them lengthwise into bite-sized pieces.

Melt the butter in a wide, heavy pan and when it froths, but before it colours, throw in the mushrooms, a little salt and about a quarter of a garlic clove crushed with a little salt. Shake the mushrooms over a medium heat, cooking them for about two minutes before stirring in the cream and pepper. Check the seasoning, adding more garlic if needed. Simmer for a minute or two.

Creamed oyster mushrooms served with plainly roasted poultry or game are an alternative to the more pungent forestière garnish of assorted and sauced wild mushrooms.

A few shavings of fresh white truffle are the perfect dressing for a plate of good pasta. Perfection is seldom obtainable and humbler woodland produce does very well when it has to. Several types of mushrooms are especially good with pasta. Little chanterelles sautéed in butter add a pleasingly chewy texture as well as flavour - or try the fresh shiitake mushrooms.

Shiitake with noodles
Serves 4
225g (8oz) fresh shiitake mushrooms
55g (2oz) butter, or 4 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon lemon juice (optional)
450g (1lb) fresh noodles

Narrow noodles, almost as thin as spaghetti, are the kind I like and a pound of pasta is enough for four substantial servings unless the noodles are to be the main dish.

Remove the stalks from the mushrooms and save them for some other purpose. Slice the caps finely. They are flatter than field mushrooms so cut them into matchstick slices.

Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil, and in a wide pan heat the butter or oil. Add the mushrooms to the fat together with pepper and salt and turn them quickly over a medium heat. Two or three minutes is enough. They do not need to brown. Sprinkle them with lemon juice and keep warm.

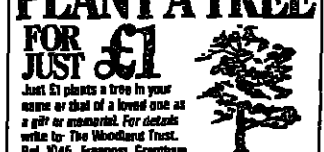
Salt the boiling water and drop in the pasta. Bring back to the boil as quickly as possible and cook until the noodles are as tender as you like them. Drain the pasta and turn the mushrooms at once into a warm bowl. Pour the mushrooms over them, stir and serve immediately. If dried pasta is substituted, start cooking it before the mushrooms.

TOMORROW



Times Profile of King Juan Carlos of Spain

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THE TIMES DIARY

Priceless Poly

In what is seen as a political snub, the former Labour education minister, Christopher Price, has been turned down as the new director of the strife-torn North London Polytechnic. Instead the job has gone to John Beishon, the acting director, who, I am told, was not on the original shortlist. Beishon, who was drafted in from the South Bank Poly as a trouble-shooter to cope with the National Front student Patrick Harrington, never intended to stay. But informed sources tell me that Price - always the favourite candidate - was ditched by the Inner London Education Authority because of fears that Sir Keith Joseph's financial largesse for the Poly might be influenced if an obvious socialist were appointed. Yesterday Beishon was abroad.

Boozoni?

Opera North has a funny way of trying to win business sponsorship. In a special performance for the CBI conference at Harrogate, its singers donned bowler hats and sang the rousing refrain: "We all enjoy the liquid lunches, half-past twelve to half-past three. But workaholics get their hunches - even on the 19th too."

No sooner had a workman sent the £1 million Algradi boat crashing to the floor of the V & A than the men from Polyfilla were on the scene. The offer was politely declined.

Back to front

Roy Thomson, leader of the Tories in the National Association of District Councils, has resigned as a committee chairman of his own conservative council in Bourne-mouth because he can no longer stomach its peculiar attitude to local enterprise. The council has effectively taken over the seafront - running everything from deckchair businesses and cafes to the Bourne-mouth International Centre. "I took the view that a Conservative council should stick to Conservative politics," he told me. The local SDP leader, Douglas Eyre, said: "The council's attitude to free enterprise is verging on the Marxist."

Organizers of today's conference on Sex Offenders and Criminal Justice suggest that delegates reach the Dolphin Square venue in London by the "Nearest Bust Route, no. 24."

Slit vac

The Liberal Party's economic and employment spokesman, David Penhaligon and Richard Wainwright, returned from a meeting at the Manpower Services Commission yesterday convinced that what manpower Britain really needs is more lift repairs. They had just spent 25 minutes trapped in the lift on the eighth floor of the MSC building in Gray's Inn Road. Prospects for escape looked so poor that, in the end, they started their discussions with the MSC chairman, Brian Nicholson, by shouting through a five-inch crack in the lift doors.

BARRY FANTONI



"Mind you, I wouldn't mind clamping the West Indian fast bowlers."

Kick start

The havoc wrought by the Old Etonian young gentlemen who smashed up a Bristol restaurant recently may not be a patch on what future generations could cause. The school has just built a karate centre and booked Caesar Andrews to give 50 of its charges lessons in the ancient martial art of knocking hell out of your opponents. Caesar is not amused by the old boys' antics. "One thing the present bunch will learn from me is discipline," he told me dully.

Open and shut

News reaches me of one investigation carried out by the BBC's *Watchdog* which will never appear: an abortive attempt to expose dentists who prescribe too many fillings. It sent out a reporter, suitably wired up with a secret tape-recorder, to 10 Coventry dentists, after an expert from the London Hospital Dental School told him he needed two fillings. All 10 dentists took X-rays - which could not have been desperately healthy for the reporter - but none prescribed more than one filling, some asking him to return when the X-ray results came through. No story, no programme. Yesterday *Watchdog* confessed: "The dentists were just too honest." The British Dental Association is not amused. "Who is going to pay for 10 unnecessary examinations? One hopes *Watchdog* will own up and cough up."

PHS

High tech: don't sponsor, just buy

by David Butler

For the past few years, the Government has been trying to support the British-based information technology industry in the face of a rapidly mounting trade deficit in this crucial sector. On its own through the Alvey programme, and with its EEC partners through Esprit, the Government has partially funded joint research and development projects in such areas as artificial intelligence, software engineering and the "man/machine interface".

It is now widely known that the Government is considering what arrangements (if any) should succeed the present schemes. I want to propose a radical alternative to the present policy.

Supporting the supply side of IT, I suggest, is something for which government is singularly ill-equipped. If the Minister for Information Technology and his senior officials can truly pick the winning technologies, companies and products of the future, they should be running investment companies. I see no evidence that they can. Can they, with hand on heart, point to a single successful IT product in world markets and say, "Without our help, that

would not have seen the light of day?" Moreover, state subvention may actually harm UK companies. If the projects are such that the companies concerned would have undertaken them anyway, then the Government is making an arbitrary gift of taxpayers' money. If they are projects the companies would not otherwise have undertaken, then the Government is encouraging them to conduct research to which, by definition, they would not prudently commit their shareholders' money. Either way, subventions distort market forces and undermine competitiveness.

What, then, can government do? Nothing? That would not be an ignoble conclusion if, as I believe, the current policies do positive harm. In fact, there is an alternative.

Government should act not as a sponsor but as a customer of IT. Why not persuade the Prime Minister to instruct the major departments of state that by (say) 1992, they are expected to have in place the most

effective and highly-automated systems of public administration anywhere in the world? Some of these projects would be immensely cost-effective. The introduction of fingerprint technology could probably eliminate DHSS frauds, saving billions of pounds a year. A rapid and purposeful increase in the teaching of IT skills in schools and universities would enrich the ability of our workforce.

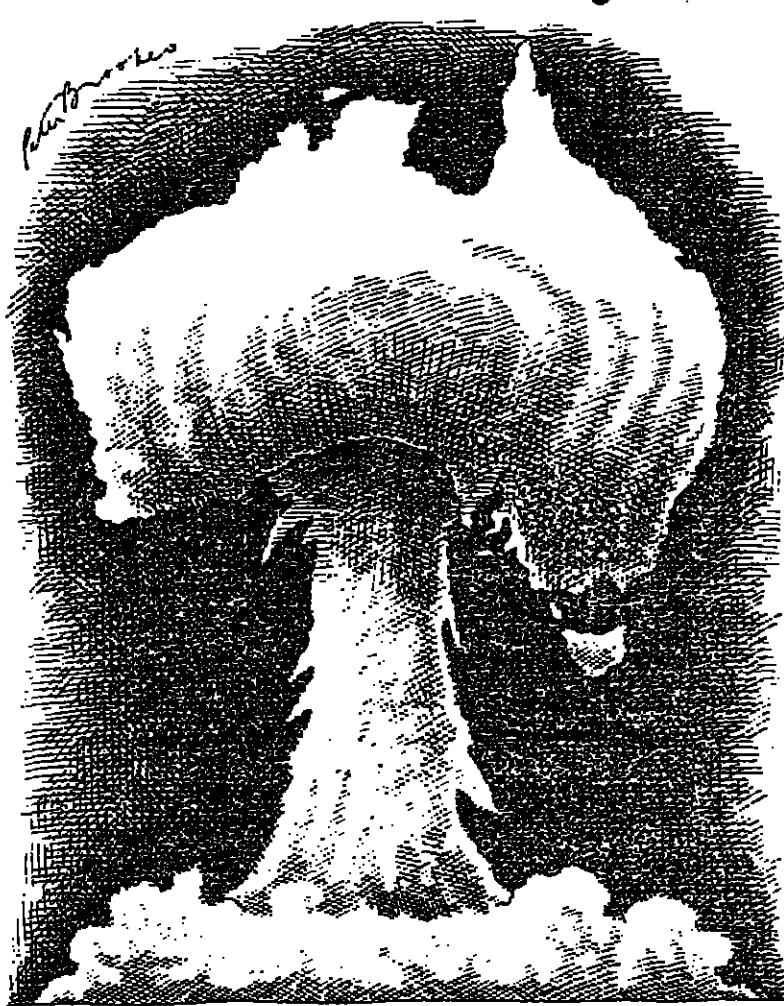
There are really two models for a government wishing to support its IT industry. Japan does it by joint research, partially funded by government. America does it by public spending, through defence and aerospace programmes. We chose the Japanese model. It doesn't work here. Let's switch to the American.

With such a vibrant public-sector market, the UK industry should be able to develop tools, methodologies and products to sell in the public and commercial markets of the world. If they failed to exploit the opportunity, it would be their fault, not the Government's.

The author is chairman of Butler Cox & Partners, information technology consultants.

With delivery of the Royal Commission report on British nuclear tests, Phillip Whitehead finds the imperial connection on trial

How the bomb broke up the family



If McClelland recommends this, as expected, he will catch the mood of young Australia today. It is one that looks at the British-dominated past, in the run-in to the country's bicentennial, with a deep distaste. The new Australians are a far cry from Robert Menzies' hero-worship of Churchill and deep belief in a white Commonwealth. They want to express their shame at racism towards aborigines, at the "white Australia" policy followed by Labor as well as right-wing governments, and at their current dependence on the USA. For all these targets, the old colonial power can stand proxy. Nationalism and guilt exorcise it together. The fusion attitudes perceived in the British legal representatives at the Royal Commission, and Britain's early obstructions of it, fuel this sentiment. The tactics of the British, said Geoff Eames in his final submission, have been of "besmirch and avoid".

It might have been wiser for London to take the Royal Commission more seriously at the start. Any recommendations about the clean-up of Maralinga will embarrass both governments - the British, who tested much and talked little, departing with apparent Australian concurrence; and the Australians, who stood by as approving hosts in their shadow.

The British test programme divided into two phases: a series, culminating in the Christmas Island tests, and lower-yield nuclear weapons exploded in simulated battlefield conditions at Maralinga. Today, 30 years on, the concrete obelisk of the huge Maralinga site, with their code names, "One Tree", "Breakaway", "Kite", "Tadpole", and their sombre radiation warnings. Around them nothing grows, though

rabbits have re-colonised much of the area. Some is fenced off, to keep humans away. The rabbit, like the bomber, always gets through.

These are the sites of the "minor trials", which went on until 1963. They were tests which simulated a nuclear accident: could the devices be exploded by mistake? In proving the contrary, the British left a far greater hazard behind. At the Tarakan and TM100 sites, there remain, behind the wire, radioactive materials with a half-life of many thousands of years.

The British have been back twice, to clean up. But according to Dr Keith Lokan, of the Australian Radiation Laboratory, not all the plutonium - even now - is in the 21 concrete pits into which it was supposed to have been collected. Fragments remain scattered around.

A recommendation that the British should now return once more and remove all this deadly debris, so that the site could in theory be habitable again, would put the two governments at odds. McClelland accepts that the cost could be phenomenal.

Nevertheless, the British would be well advised to tread carefully, even if the Hawke government, following McClelland, makes demands for redress in the kind of tone Mrs Thatcher reserves for the European Commission. Affronted patriotism can be deadly in its turn.

The inevitable growing-away of Britain and Australia, once the former's destiny was seen to lie in Europe and the latter's in Asia, meant that they could be no more than kissing cousins. Now the kissing seems to have stopped. The British find this hard to take. Menzies was their sort of chap. So were the scientists and military men he attached to the project. Now he has been dug up like a regicide, to stand trial as a British quisling - or so it seems - and the victims of Maralinga take their place in the roll call of Australians, from Sylvia Day to Singapore, who were put up-front by the Poms.

The days when Australia, the historian Geoffrey Blainey's phrase, "acted on most issues as if it was the Isle of Wight", are well past. With 30 years of hindsight, the McClelland inquiry has been able to show gross negligence by Britain, in the light of what was known at the time and what Australia's own safety representatives demanded. It has shown two nations growing apart.

Sir Mark Oliphant, Australia's most distinguished nuclear physicist, and a sceptic about the tests, thinks that the present itch to be done with the British link is like the recurrent generation problem in any family. But he was shaken, in his turn, to discover from the shabby documents unearthed by the commission that he had been black-balled twice from any safety role by his colleagues (he had been refused a visa by the Americans).

That may have been the deepest impact of McClelland: not that he showed young Australia what Anglophile old Australia would accept, but that he also showed old Australia a face of Albion it had never previously known.

Phillip Whitehead's documentary, *Just Testing*, will be broadcast on Channel 4 on December 6.

Malthus no: malnutrition yes

The spectre of famine in the midst of plenty, of Africans starving while Europeans and Americans bewail their surpluses, haunts us inescapably. For all the repeated admonitions, not least from the relief agencies such as Oxfam and War on Want, that food aid is only a short-term palliative and that nations must be helped to feed themselves, the paradox is no less disturbing.

Last month Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, told the Commons that interventionist stocks of breadwheat, beef, butter and skimmed milk powder in the United Kingdom alone were worth nearly £600 million. Last year the EEC spent \$65 million on taking fruit and vegetables off the market and destroying them to prevent a glut.

But it is not just a question of the rich nations having more than they know what to do with while the poor go hungry. The world as a whole is far better able to feed itself than anyone would have thought possible a few years ago.

Look back through press cuttings and you will find that, in the mid-1970s, the doom-mongers were warning us that disaster threatened unless something was done about population control. In May 1976, a Cabinet Office discussion paper concluded that only the improvement and widespread use of contraception could prevent mass starvation.

The following month, the United Nations set up a new agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development. World food stocks were said to be at their lowest since the Second World War, and a

serious crop failure would send prices through the roof.

About the same time, Professor Jan Tinbergen of the Netherlands, winner of a Nobel prize for economics, reported to the so-called Club of Rome that drastic changes were needed to ward off - same phrase - "mass starvation". Four years later, a Nobel peace laureate, Dr Norman Borlaug, an American, forecast that the world population would double to 8,000 million in the next 40 years and blamed hunger on "the human population monster". The general feeling was one of helplessness.

Then the tune changed. A report prepared for the UN World Food Council in February last year admitted that many of the predictions made a decade earlier were wrong, including the assumption that rising demand would outpace cereal production. Nevertheless, chronic hunger remained a "problem" for millions of people.

How so? The bleak doctrine that the human race is multiplying so fast that sooner or later it will exhaust its natural resources is, if not wholly discredited, at least now open to doubt. For the time being, the world is well able to produce all the food it needs. People should not go hungry, but they do.

The October issue of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization outlook report shows how astonishingly predictions have changed in a short space of time. Far from food stocks being dangerously low, it is forecast that world cereal production will reach a record 1,884 million tonnes this year. Global carryover stocks are put at 358 million tonnes,

more than last year's entire North American grain crop.

World milk production continues to exceed demand, despite measures by the main producing countries to curb output. Intervention stocks of dairy produce in the EEC and the US at the end of August were nearly 2.5 million tonnes, worth perhaps £4,000 million. Band Aid's brilliantly successful campaign to assist famine relief in Ethiopia and the Sudan has so far raised £52 million.

"Ample supplies" of edible oils are forecast, with next year's output reaching some 68 million tonnes. A predicted slight fall in sugar production will have little or no impact on the huge surplus stock. Cold stores are groaning under the weight of unsold meat carcasses, and New Zealand farmers recently slaughtered thousands of sheep in protest at low prices.

How has all this happened? The weather has certainly helped. Except in the Sahel region of Africa, there have been few, if any, significant crop failures. Even in Africa, the drought is over in most areas, and several countries, including Kenya, Zimbabwe and Malawi, will have surpluses for export this year.

But the most important factor is the enormous advance in technology. New crop strains have been developed which give yields that, a generation ago, would have been inconceivable. Pesticides, for all the alleged damage they do to the environment, have dramatically reduced the ravages from pests and diseases.

Advances in veterinary medicine, which include the controversial use

of hormone implants and antibiotics as growth promoters, have produced larger and healthier animals. New feeding systems have greatly boosted the milk output from dairy herds.

Intensive livestock systems, another subject of considerable controversy, have created the possibility of virtually limitless supply. Anything humans can do by way of reproduction, pigs and poultry can do many times faster and more prolifically.

Yet, almost coincidentally with its optimistic supply forecasts, the FAO has also issued a dispiriting little booklet pointing out that hunger and malnutrition, far from being on the wane, are still increasing. Every year 15 million children die of hunger-related causes, it says. Some 435 million people, more than one-fifth of the world's population, are undernourished. Of these, more than 300 million are in Asia and the Pacific, which seems incredible, and 40 million in Latin America, which is inexcusable.

Drought, natural disasters, war, soil erosion and deforestation can be blamed in some cases, the booklet says. But the main culprits are lack of organization and the reluctance of governments to allot sufficient priority to agriculture or to give farmers the incentives to produce at more than subsistence level.

The message is blindingly obvious: our failure to ensure that everyone has enough to eat is political, not economic. Yet the politicians, as always, continue to look for scapegoats.

John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Peter Kellner

Pillars that have lost their salt

The normal mode of debate in the House of Commons is for ministers to say one thing. Labour to say the opposite and for the rest of us to choose at which pole, or at which point between the two poles, truth is to be found.

But from time to time the pattern varies and the leaderships of the two parties conspire to tell the same untruth. Such was the case with last week's Autumn Statement on the economy. Nigel Lawson proudly asserted that the Government was sticking to its strategy. Roy Hattersley disputed many things, but not that.

It did not suit the political tactics of either the Chancellor or his shadow to acknowledge that Tory economic policy has undergone a marked change. For Lawson such a statement would require an admission that for the last six years the Government had done many things wrong. For Hattersley that the Tories were now beginning to do something right.

Yet within the past month two of the three pillars of the economic philosophy encapsulated in the word "Thatcherism" have been pulled down. In his Mansion House speech on October 17, Lawson effectively passed the death sentence on monetarism. In 1979 control of the money supply, and in particular Sterling M3, lay at the heart of economic policy. Year after year, however, M3 refused to behave, and last month Lawson announced that he was no longer even going to try to keep it within this year's target range.

At the Lord Mayor of London's banquet last week Mrs Thatcher personally removed the second pillar. She waxed positively eloquent about the benefits that the Government's "colossal programme of public expenditure" would bring the nation. Could this be the same woman who used to tell us how much harm "colossal" public spending would do?

What is more, the fiddle that counts sales of state assets as "negative public spending" not only conceals the extent of government expenditure, it also allows Lawson to mislead everyone about public sector borrowing. As stockbrokers Simon & Coates pointed out last week, raising money by selling assets has the same effect on public sector net worth as selling gifts. If the PSBR is kept constant, but sales of assets increase, the effect is deflationary.

When this effect is taken into account and the Government's policies are adjusted to take account of cyclical variations in the economy, Simon & Coates estimate that Lawson's policies amount to £2 billion worth of inflation next year.

So we have inflation by stealth combined with the death of monetarism by default. But a third pillar of the original Thatcherite intellectual edifice remains in place. Thatcher, Lawson and Lord Young, Employment Secretary, still believe that the market system, in particular the labour market, has to work better if Britain is to sustain long-term growth.

(This view is somewhat myopic; otherwise ministers would have done something about the scandalous distortion of the labour market arising from the archaic demarcation rules that keep barristers and solicitors apart. But that is another story.)

The theoretical case for removing distortions from the labour market rests on the belief that if it functioned efficiently it would be cleared. That is, the price of labour - wages and salaries - would adjust to the level at which the number of people wanting work would equal the number of employers wanting to hire labour. Achieve this goal and, hey presto, you have full employment. According to this theory, unemployment is not ultimately the fault of governments generating insufficient demand, but of defects in the labour market itself.

The more practical way of arguing this case is for ministers to say: "Look at the United States. They have been able to tackle unemployment faster than we have because their labour market works better than ours." This kind of observation is used to justify policies such as the castration of wages councils.

A little noticed article in the current Royal Bank of Scotland Review elegantly demolishes the labour-market explanation for Britain's high unemployment. J. R. Shackleton, one of Britain's brighter young economists, has taken the trouble to compare the actual conditions of the British and US labour markets.

As far as the main measurable factors are concerned - wage flexibility, differentials, labour market segmentation and minimum wage regulations - Shackleton finds that the US labour market works no better than Britain's. Indeed, US minimum wage laws affect far more people than Britain's wages councils.

Shackleton concludes that "there is insufficient evidence to indict wages councils as substantial causes of our relatively poor employment record. It certainly seems difficult to establish the case that the UK suffers more in this respect than the US." State anything, the argument points the other way (emphasis added). More broadly, Shackleton argues that the British labour market has functioned as well as anyone could reasonably expect in recent years: explanations of high unemployment must be found elsewhere.

In due course the Government may come to terms with the practical realities of the labour market as it has already started to do with monetary policy and public spending. If and when that happens, the question is whether Lawson or Hattersley will have the courage to throw away their scripts and abandon the pretence that nothing has changed - or will they both fight the next election like dazed marionettes in a liferaft, arguing over the destination of the SS Thatcherite oblivious of the fact that the ship had long since sunk?

The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

moreover... Miles Kington

Dear whoever you are...

Now that nobody writes personal letters any more, all those old books of etiquette are out of date - the ones that told you how to address a bishop or what title to use for the sister of a deceased admiral. What we now urgently need is a new book of etiquette for impersonal letters, the kind that choke the modern mail bag, and by an extraordinary coincidence such a book has just been published. It is the *Moreover Modern Etiquette Book*.

Say, for example, that you are an estate agent in trendy SW3, and that you have thousands of Americans asking you for short-stay flats in the area, but you have only one on your list and there are already five Nigerians living in it. Your obvious course of action is to write to everyone in the neighbourhood, asking them to get out of their houses for six months. You haven't had time to get to know all of these people personally, or indeed any of them, so you have to adopt a title instead of a name.

But what title should it be? Dear Resident? Dear Neighbour? Dear Sir? Dear Sir/Madam? Yes, it's a problem. Not if you have the *Moreover Modern Etiquette Book*, though. You simply look up the section on estate agents and find the answer: "Dear Property-Owner".

This has the correct overtones of respect combined with neighbourliness and flattery. You will also find a note in this section warning you to be very careful about the use of a computer, which, left to itself, will always try to address people as "Dear Mr Property-Owner". This has the adverse effect of giving people the suspicion that you don't know their real name and, unless you want to be mentioned in a correspondence in *The Times* about the funny things people call you, it is to be avoided at all costs.

If you do want to be featured in a correspondence in *The Times*, we have a special section for you, advising you to "address people called D. R. Owen as 'Dr Owen', Mrs Thrall, B Ltd as 'Mrs Thrall-Bitt', the Very Rev. London as 'R. H. Every-Revendon', and so on. This gains you much free publicity and is unaccountably amusing to the readers of *The Times*.

Again, you may be the manager of a firm that is desperately trying to increase business by giving away free prizes, or at least appearing to give away free prizes. It is no use addressing the recipients of these illusory free prizes as "Dear Mrs Propylene". It simply does not

convey the feeling of joy and happiness you are trying to spread. The correct form of address, as the *Moreover Modern Etiquette Book* will tell you, is "You Lucky, Lucky Person!"

If you have access to a list of names and addresses, perhaps acquired from a well-known newspaper or department store, you may well think that the correct address for Mrs Propylene is simply "Dear Mrs Propylene". Again, wrong. People tend to notice unsolicited mail more if their name is slightly misspelled; it makes them feel slightly superior. There are no hard and fast rules here, but we advise transposing the second and third letters of the name, as for instance: "Dear Mrs Propylene" becomes "Dear Mrs Propylene".

If you are a publisher who is trying to interest readers in a special publication offer, of the kind which is £18 until December 31 and then goes up to £80, you might think that accuracy was all. Again, wrong. Get the address right, by all means, but get the name totally wrong, as long as you use a much more distinguished one. Should you receive a letter addressed to V. S. Pritchett, and starting "Dear Sir Victor", you will automatically assume that you have got a letter which was really intended for someone much greater than you. You send off your £18, flattered and happy, and unaware that 5,000 other people have also received letters to V. S. Pritchett.

You may be in the unhappy situation of trying to recover money that has been owing to you for two years. A cunning tip recommended by the *Moreover Modern Etiquette Book* is to address the envelope to "Mrs Propylene (deceased)". In this probability, Mrs Propylene is still alive, but it does add an air of menace and foreboding to the invoice which often does the trick.

All this, and much, much more, is to be found in the *Moreover Modern Etiquette Book*, which would make the ideal Christmas present for anyone who has to send out more than 1,000 letters a day, and which is of use to anyone who has to write out how to address a famous author who is currently changing sex, a bank robber living in Spain or a simply a neighbour whose plumbing you wish to ruin at any hour of day or night. It's all in here! The correct form of application is as follows: Dear Lord Moreover.

Please send me your book on etiquette. I enclose a blank cheque which you can fill in at your leisure. Yours very, very leisurely.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

VOTE FOR TELEVISION

It is easy to understand the fears of those Conservative MPs who will be voting against the principle of televising Parliament today. Senior ministers know how tedious even the best Government statements tend to be; how alluring, by contrast the unscripted ripostes of their opponents. The would-be minister knows how easily his dogged homework could be passed over by the camera in favour of the charismatic lens-louse who sits on the bench behind him. The more relaxed MP knows that his absences from the House may be better noticed - his post-prandial snoozes too. The middle-of-the-road chaps know that the Prime Minister has not currently a fixed mind on the matter and that in such a case Conservatives should perhaps be conservative.

It would be sad, however, if an accidental alliance of the nervous, the fearful and directionless lobby fodder should defeat the back-bench motion, set down on today's order paper in the name of Miss Janet Fookes. The televising of the House of Commons will allow British voters the opportunity to know better their elected representatives, whether they be in action or inaction, with their warts on or their warts off. For that reason, and that reason alone, the Commons should follow the example of the Lords and enter the television age.

Of course such a high-minded principle as the public's access to its Parliament is not the cause of today's debate. Party advantage is all. The Prime Minister's advisers were once certain that televising Parliament before the next election would do her harm: the broadcasters could not be

trusted to show Mrs Thatcher in her true light: the rowdy image of Labour's unrulies would rub off on her own better behaved ranks. The Alliance was full of dangerous television stars like David Owen and Clement Freud.

A few months ago she was said to have changed her mind. The antics of Denis Skinner and his friends were now thought far more likely to remind voters of the far Left threat than to bring Parliamentarians as a whole into disrepute. It was realized that, unlike radio, which makes it seem as though the whole Chamber is full of animals, television coverage would make it precisely clear who the animals were. Mrs Thatcher's question time clashes with Mr Kinnock were going well for her. As for the Alliance, it was thought that Parliament's traditional two-party bias would - in the early stages at least - show the two Davids more as field ambulance-men than fighters in the real fray of battle.

None of the above arguments reflects great credit on those that deploy them. But by such political analysis is procedural progress made. The current Downing Street view - now being loyally disseminated to the back-benches - is that Mrs Thatcher has a more open mind and that the television cameras should perhaps be allowed in only on a restricted basis and that the editorial power which the BBC exerts over the radio output should not be allowed to extend to television.

The Prime Minister is of course entitled to her views. Such views are, however, for the Select Committee to consider. It

is important in today's vote that the principle itself be accepted, that the Select Committee be set up, and the experimental broadcasting of Commons debates begun as soon as is possible.

Worried Liberals and Social Democrats should reflect that analysis of a Commons experiment will allow them a debate on Parliamentary procedure that ought to take place in any case but which, without such a stimulus, probably will not. In discussions of their television treatment, the Alliance MPs will have a good opportunity to press their case on, for example, a fairer deal at question time. Ministers who are worried about the Chancellor's recent treatment at the hands of Mr Brian Sedgemoor will be able to consider whether Parliamentary privilege needs special protection under the TV lights. Those concerned about editorial control should remember that if the Government seizes its opportunity to reform broadcasting and break up the BBC, the relaying of Parliament could be carried out as a public service in a wide variety of regulated ways.

Doubtless other similar worries will arise as the experiment progresses. But at the root of the issue is the growing need of the British people to be brought closer to their elected representatives. Respect for Westminster democracy needs to be more than just a political slogan against the anti-democratic left. Television may mean changes to Parliament. It will also mean the protection of Parliament long after today's political slide rules have been laid to rest.

EMS: THE DRY CASE

The report on the European Monetary System published yesterday by the Treasury committee of MPs may serve one purpose. It concludes that Britain should not become a full member, at least in the "short or medium term", for a series of reasons that might just provoke Mrs Thatcher into believing that Britain should go in. At least, it would have provoked the "same old Maggie" she declares herself to be. For the report is pervaded by the old idea that Britain can steal a competitive advantage by allowing its exchange rate to slide rather than by determining to control costs and cure inflation.

The report only toys with the central purpose of the EMS: as a sound financial framework for Europe, and hence for Britain. This is partly, of course, because some members of the committee want little to do with Europe, and still less to do with the idea of financial frameworks that might constrain their fool's freedom to inflate. But it is also because other members of the committee, who are genuinely interested in both sound financial policy and the development of a European economy, allowed themselves to be beguiled by the idea of exchange rates as a means of manipulating trade advantage, despite all the evidence of past failure.

The EMS aims to limit short-term fluctuations in the exchange rates between members of the European Community.

When it was set up in 1979, the Labour Government elected to stay outside this currency system. Britain, it was feared, would be unable to compete with West Germany; propping up the pound would prove an intolerable strain. The pound promptly rose outside the EMS, and is now back roughly where it was against the German mark in 1979. In the meantime, our price competitiveness with Germany has deteriorated by about 28 per cent - not because our exchange rate was fixed, but because we have been less successful in controlling domestic costs.

The same arguments are being rehearsed today, and the Treasury committee still seems to be searching for a free lunch. It would, of course, be pleasant for British industry if today's exchange rate were DM3.50. But sooner or later, at some exchange rate or other, the British have to grasp the fact that membership of the European Economic Community implies an effort to reduce cost inflation to the level achieved in the largest of the EEC's economies. We will be on a rake's progress of exchange rate uncertainty, devaluation or loss of competitiveness until we grasp the nettle.

The French Government, whose Socialist inflationary failures used to lard British politicians' speeches, has forced inflation down by clinging determinedly to its place in the EMS. As a result, we may soon be losing price competitiveness

against not one but two major European economies. We cannot - and should not - count on a falling currency to correct this.

To do it justice, the Confederation of British Industry appears more seized of this particular point than it has been in the past. The politicians should lead, not follow. There was a real reason for staying outside the EMS when British economic policy was driven by dogged adherence to domestic monetary targets written on those tablets of stone, the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In the early, rigorous days of the MTFS the two financial objectives - internal and external - might well have been in conflict.

Today's monetary targets, however, seem to be written in sand. Thus the rigour of monetary policy has constantly to be demonstrated by keeping interest rates high in order to defend the pound. We are, in short, enjoying all the disadvantages of membership of an exchange rate system without the clarity that is its principal advantage. It is instructive that the most recent converts to membership are among those "dries" who worry about the Government's financial strength of purpose, while it is the "wets" that are becoming disenchanted. In the next Budget, the Chancellor will be obliged to present a new and coherent monetary strategy, which could most convincingly be built on membership of the EMS.

OLD SPECTRES OVER BRAZIL

The weekend's municipal elections in Brazil have underlined the daunting political problems confronting President Jose Sarney. Less than two weeks after his Argentine counterpart Raul Alfonsin stamped his personal authority upon his country with a resounding electoral triumph, Sarney by contrast seems to be facing a future which is full of uncertainty - for himself and for Brazil.

Since becoming president on the untimely death of Tancredo Neves, Sarney has tried to govern through a moderate Centrist coalition, which would prove acceptable to the former (and still powerful) military rulers - yet avoid upsetting the Left. Thus he has tried to sweep away the worst features of military repression, has introduced limited agrarian reform, has proposed modifying the present restrictive laws on trade unions - and has adopted a more nationalistic stance on the issue of debt renegotiation.

The administration room for manoeuvre has become more limited as a result of last Friday's

elections however. Although the senior party in the coalition the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) won two-thirds of the municipalities and 17 out of 25 capitals, the coalition itself has all but broken up. Its junior partner the Liberal Front (PFL) did very badly, while even the PMDB failed to win some important state capitals, including Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Its failure in Sao Paulo to defeat the 70-year-old former president Janio Quadros was a particularly severe blow.

Sarney's scope for flexibility has also been circumscribed by advances from the Left. The Workers' Party, for instance, has broadened its electoral appeal, winning 20 per cent of the vote in Sao Paulo and dramatically increasing its support in both the Centre West and the impoverished North East. Given its firm opposition to negotiations with Sarney and its links with radical movements in the church and trade unions, this success will strengthen the hand of those who are calling for more fundamental changes in the Brazilian political system.

The other major party of the Left the PDT, which is led by Leonel Brizola was able to demonstrate the strength of its support in both Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre. This has increased Brizola's political weight and significantly strengthened his chances of emerging as a leading candidate for the presidency.

The elections have indicated the extent to which 21 years of military rule have starved the country of political leadership. There is thus the strange spectacle of political life in 1985 being dominated by Quadros and Brizola - both leading players in the political chaos of the early 1960s.

The elections have provided strong evidence of the weakness of party structures and of Brazil's continuing susceptibility to personalized politics. The renewed success of charismatic and opportunistic figures like Quadros must once more raise the fear of the instability and polarization which characterized the country's previous experiment with democratic politics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Breeding-ground for discontent?

From Professor W. A. Armstrong

Sir, Lord Young's radical and imaginative measure (report, November 13) to supplement wages by £20 a week in order to encourage the long-term unemployed to accept low-paid jobs appears to entail a revival of the Speenhamland system of poor relief which was widely resorted to in the southern agricultural counties between 1795 and the 1820s.

This approach, which entailed supporting wages from parish rates, was much criticized for its effects in raising the real cost of relief, dampening the free flow of labour as a factor of production, and breeding the poverty it sought to ameliorate.

Apparently the Secretary of State for Employment is unconscious of this historical parallel and of the intellectual inconsistency of his measure with the free market postures upheld by the Government of which he is a member. However, it is likely that in future Conservative ministers will be less frequently embarrassed by such playful criticisms, when the study of history in schools, colleges and universities is reduced to the anodyne rehearsal of our shared values and our island heritage.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. ARMSTRONG,
The University, of Kent at Canterbury,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Elton College,
Canterbury, Kent,
November 14.

Homeless and rootless

From the Bishop of Southwark

Sir, The revised board and lodging regulations are due to be debated in both Houses of Parliament this week.

Once again, a time limit will be set to the period for which many people are entitled to receive assistance with their board and lodging costs. Is it understood that this restriction does not disqualify people from drifting to London or to the south coast and from receiving board and lodging payments?

What it does do is to curtail the rights of people to receive such assistance in the very place where they may have been born and spent the whole of their lives. In order to continue receiving payments they will be forced to pull up their roots and to settle in one part of the country after another.

I would like to think that this is an unintended consequence of the proposals, which has somehow or other escaped the attention of ministers. But given the extremely strong terms in which the Social Security Advisory Committee itself has made this point, and the repeated and virtually unanimous warnings sounded by the voluntary social services sector, one is forced to conclude that it is not. A hardness of heart has developed.

Is it not enough that we have a vast army of unemployed young people? Must we drive them out of our communities as well? What are the social consequences likely to be, as a new generation of rootless people moves around the country?

Yours sincerely,
BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK,
Bishop's House,
38 Tooting Bec Gardens,
Streatham, SW16,
November 18.

Victorian values

From Mr Peter Lewison

Sir, It hardly becomes Mr Tebbit, whose party has done so little to reduce the numbers of unemployed bike-riders, to ascribe permissive values as the main cause of our social problems. Rarely can there be little belief in consensus, or the quality of our national life. They seem unconcerned with the social effects of their policies on e.g., housing, education, research or manufacturing.

And how does Mr Tebbit think values can be restored if we are asked to venerate permissive get-rich-quick concepts? While complaints are made about industrial earnings, those for managerial and related jobs at twice that level are tolerated, even encouraged. With such a wages policy, no wonder social divisions are widening and values disappearing.

The only surprise about Mr Lawson's formula for reducing taxation nearer 1979 levels - the sale of national assets - is that he did not also encourage major companies to use their assets in a similar way - for increasing dividends rather than investment.

If, on its own admission and performance, a government is so dedicated to purely material values, it shouldn't be surprised if the electorate seems increasingly concerned with bread and permissive circles.

Yours truly,
PETER LEWISON,
Court Hill House,
East Dean, Chichester, Sussex,
November 16.

Death of a child

From Dr K. R. Llewellyn

Sir, Omayra Sanchez (report and photograph, November 18) occupies our minds and hearts, perhaps even more, for the moment, than Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov.

Could these men find time to consider how the immense combined resources of their countries could be better directed towards more efficient relief measures, in the next major tragedy. She could not have a better memorial.

Yours sincerely,
K. R. LLEWELLYN,
Dawlish,
Grove Road, Mollington, Chester,
November 18.

Doubts on aspects of Irish agreement

From Mr Robert L. McCartney, QC.

MP for North Down (OUP)

Sir, I write as a Northern Ireland Unionist. Like Edward Carson the Unionists of Northern Ireland ask for no special rights but claim the same rights as are afforded to British citizens in every other part of the United Kingdom.

The British Government has agreed with the government of a foreign power, which has almost invariably shown itself hostile to the interests of the British people in Northern Ireland, that such government will have a function in formulating the policy and laws which will apply to British citizens living in an integral part of the United Kingdom. The function has already been described by Mr John Hume, leader of the Nationalist SDLP, as more than consultative and as a participation in the decision-making process.

The future agenda of the Anglo-Irish government conference will include the reorganisation of the security forces and the composition of courts to include judges from the Irish Republic. If this is not an interference with the principle of national sovereignty it is difficult to conceive what might be.

Throughout the miners' strike Mrs Thatcher regularly appealed to the leaders of the NUM to permit their members to exercise their democratic rights via the ballot box, but now she steadfastly refuses to afford the same opportunity to the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has repeatedly said that it is only the elected representatives of the majority who are opposed to the agreement, and not the bulk of the people, but a referendum, which is denied, would prove the truth or falsity of his assertions.

Quite clearly the British Government know that the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland bitterly resented this diminution of their rights as British citizens. A referendum was offered to both the people of Wales and Scotland during the devolution debate. It is evident that the Government is going to ensure that not only will the view of the majority be suppressed in constitutional expression, but that all other forms of rejection will be crushed.

A contingency plan is reported in *The Observer*, which includes two spearhead battalions of The Parachute Regiment on standby, and a decision to bar all social security payments in the event of a strike, as well as freezing all grant aid to agriculture and industry. The gun barrel and starvation are to be weapons of democracy as understood by Mrs Thatcher.

The same democratic process has enabled Mr John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, with an electoral support of 18 per cent, to be kept fully informed, briefed and consulted throughout the entire negotiations, while the elected leaders of 70 per cent of the electorate were deliberately excluded.

Since Unionists had no input into the agreement it is not surprising that their viewpoint is almost totally ignored. It is nonsense to say that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland will not be changed without the consent of the majority and then to shut out the majority so completely from discussions vital to their future maintenance of that status.

The Unionists of Northern Ireland have been fiercely loyal to the United Kingdom in its moments of greatest peril, while the Irish

Republic has never failed to avail herself of Britain's difficulty as her opportunity, the most recent being during the Falklands crisis, which the Republic's Press invariably referred to as the Malvinas, yet the British Government is to threaten her citizens in Northern Ireland with crack airborne troops and economic coercion if they do not consent to be second-class British citizens, whose governance is partly in the hands of a foreign power, which has opposed their interests for generations.

I, like many others in Northern Ireland whose families have fought and died for Britain, would never have believed that a government of a people renowned for its democratic principles and sense of fairness would refuse to grant a ballot, but be prepared to turn Belfast into a Budapest. Like Carson I think that the most loathsome people are those who will sell their friends as the price of conciliating their enemies.

Perhaps Northern Ireland's Unionists should remember the words of Sir William Harcourt: "The Conservatives mark my word, never yet took up a cause without betraying it in the end".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT L. MCCARTNEY,
Northern Ireland Assembly,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont,
Belfast,
November 17.

From Mr William Shepherd

Sir, I have no doubt that Mr Prior (November 18) is right to draw our attention to the fact that there are in Northern Ireland men and women of both Catholic and Protestant persuasion who are anxious to work together for the common good. But these men and women of good will are all too few.

The reality is that there will be a determination to destroy the Anglo-Irish agreement, as there was to destroy the power-sharing agreement, and that the British people as a whole have to look at this problem in depth.

It seems to me that the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland wishes to remain as part of the United Kingdom purely as a matter of convenience. The United Kingdom will give them monetary support on a vast scale and military support when needed. In return the Protestants will from time to time wave the Union Jack - but they will not, it appears, accept the will of the Westminster Parliament.

Surely it is now time for us to insist that either the will of the British people, as voiced through Westminster, shall be carried out, or constitutional changes of a fundamental kind will have to be sought.

Should we not have a referendum which would seek approval from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland for the Anglo-Irish agreement? There is little doubt that such a referendum would show overwhelming approval; but there is also no doubt that the majority in Northern Ireland would continue to reject the agreement.

I suggest that at this point we should hold a further referendum to seek approval from Northern Ireland, with a view to Northern Ireland becoming an independent State, supported for a limited time by grants from the United Kingdom and from such other sources as may be willing to give financial assistance.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM SHEPHERD,
77 George Street,
Fortnam Square, W1,
November 18.

Opening the Bar

From Mr Adam Broke

Sir, I am glad to see (report, November 8) that the Bar is looking again at the issue of direct access to its members.

As an accountant specialising in taxation it has always puzzled me that I can consult direct with an expert in any other field, but that I cannot do so with a barrister for advice save through the medium of a solicitor. Logically there are two possible reasons for the solicitor's presence.

Firstly, because the case is such that it will require a solicitor and accountant to work together, as in many commercial transactions, and in such cases the solicitor/accountant team is a partnership in the client's own interests. Secondly, because the solicitor has experience and skills in the gathering of facts and the statement of a case; but here the specialist accountant ought to be as competent since in revenue law work he is practising in the same field.

The Royal Commission on Legal Services considered the question but came down para. 19.12 against giving accountants the right of direct access in taxation matters on the grounds that to do so would be to open the floodgates to other professions such as doctors, architects and engineers. But surely they missed the point. In matters of taxation accountants may be as skilled as solicitors with regard to the relevant legislation, whereas other professions have little overlap with the activities of solicitors.

Seen in this light, I suggest that the current situation is a restrictive practice for which there is no longer a justification. In non-contentious cases, where what is at stake is the determination of the correct view of the law, it must be right that an accountant should be permitted to approach the Bar direct.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BROKE,
Arthur Young,
Chartered Accountants,
Rolls House,
7 Rolls Buildings,
Fetter Lane, EC4,
November 13.

Museum charges

From Mr Donald King

Sir, In the thirties my brother and I walked, as a matter of course, between Barnes and South Kensington to visit the museum. Apart from the war years I have been a visitor to them ever since, along with my children and now my grandchildren.

I think charges of great pity but understand the problem and have no objection to paying £2 to visit the V&A. I do object most strongly, however, to the giving of a badge to those who pay. This is coercion and Sir Roy Strong cannot assert that all those who pay do so voluntarily.

TSB flotation

From Mrs Helen Cameron

Sir, The letter (November 15) from the General Secretary of the Banking, Insurance & Finance Union shows little understanding of the fundamental issues raised by the depositors of the Trustee Savings Bank Scotland. A similar unwillingness or inability on the part of the trustees and the Government to deal with the question of ownership has caused the present disarray in the face of Lord Davidson's judgment.

The trustees had serious doubts about their title to sell off the bank or they would not have required an Act of Parliament to enable them to do so. If they had title, a simple declarator from the court to this effect would have sufficed. Instead, they relied on the Commons not understanding what the legislation was about.

It would be far better if the Government recognized the depositors' rights as it is difficult to see how the weakness of their case will strengthen on appeal.

Nothing productive comes from the general secretary's attempt to condemn the depositors as "narrow and nationalistic" in their point of view. As the Scots will lose to England what has been their bank for a hundred years or so, their sense of imminent loss may be justified.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN CAMERON,
313 Byres Road,
Glasgow,
November 15.



ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 20 1980

After the Chinese invasion of Tibet the country became the Tibetan Autonomous Region within the Peoples' Republic of China. In 1959 the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa and now leads Tibet's government-in-exile from Dharamsala in India.

DALAI LAMA'S POWERS

THE STRENGTH OF BUDDHISM

From Our Own Correspondent

DELHI, Nov. 19

Perhaps the most significant news to come out of Lhasa since the invasion of the eastern part of Tibet by Chinese Communists on October 7 - their slow rate of advance towards the Tibetan capital has been governed more by logistic, climatic, and geographical factors than by the strength of the Tibetan resistance - is that of the investing with full powers of the 15-year-old Dalai Lama last Friday. In a country where religion counts for everything and the Dalai Lama, as the spiritual and temporal head of the State, commands the unquestioning allegiance of his three million devout followers, this event is important.

GOOD YEOMAN STOCK

The fourteenth Dalai Lama is by all accounts a remarkable young man. He comes of good yeoman stock from the Chinese frontier province of Chinghai, and he was enthroned in 1940 at the age of five, after the customary tests of his fitness for his high office. He has hitherto ruled through two successive regents, each of whom for one reason or another incurred unpopularity. The second regent, Taktia Rinpoche (Taktia being the name of the small monastery from which he comes), is a somewhat infirm man of 70, who will now presumably be allowed to retire.

"The presence," as the Dalai Lama is known, is an intelligent and good-looking boy, who already knows more of the Tibetan literature and scriptures than most of his instructors. He also knows a certain amount of English, enough to be able to listen to B.B.C. broadcasts and read simple magazines; he acquired his knowledge of English, not from his regular tutors, but by informal study. He has a serious bent of mind, and is interested in such subjects as the effect of climate on character, the shortcomings of Tibetan officialdom, and the working of machinery. He recently saw the English film *Henry V* no fewer than four times, and was sufficiently impressed to wish to read Shakespeare's play.

EQUIVOCAL STATEMENTS

This youth, whom every Tibetan believes to be endowed with divine attributes, is certain to give a fillip to the patriotic fervour of his countrymen. This is not, however, much point in speculating on what he may do until the objectives of the Peking Government become clear. Statements of policy from Peking are somewhat equivocal and have lately included a desire "to exercise sovereign rights, to liberate the Tibetans from aggression and to ensure regional autonomy and freedom of worship." In the past, when China exercised her "sovereign rights" over Tibet, she did so in a high-handed manner which alienated all Tibetans and paved the way for the expulsion of the Chinese and their extermination as tyrants. Whether Mao Tse-tung will prove to be the Manchus' failure remains to be seen.

For the present the Dalai Lama remains in power in Lhasa and is assisted by a Kashag, or Council of Ministers, consisting of four or five persons. There is also the Tsongdu, or National Assembly, which is not an elected body but a kind of consultative committee or feudal council. In times of crisis the Tsongdu is apt to refer a grave problem back to the Kashag for decision.

ONE IN THREE A MONK This medieval and admittedly anachronistic political system has hitherto suited the genius of the Tibetan people, isolated as they have been from world influences and surviving as an esoteric society with its roots in the ancient past of central Asian history and its emphasis of the Buddhist faith derived from India. The strength of this faith is shown by the fact that one-third of the adult male population consists of monks.

When I visit the V&A in future I shall have to pay on entry but will give £2 when I leave.

Yours truly,
DONALD KING,
9a Tubs Hill Parade,
Sevenoaks,
Kent,
November 11.

Service industry

From Mr John C. Enderbury

Sir, Excellent though Gerald Priestland's proposal (November 12), it may be a little unfair to ordinary folk who may well be unable to buy a battleship, a missile or even a Heseltine flak-jacket but would none the less wish to play their part.

Could we not have flag days for the new military machine, as we did for privatized orphanages, mad-houses and hospitals in the "good old days"? As the money for H-bombs, Tornados and Trident rolled in, it would reassure our leaders as to the rightness of their priorities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ENDERSBY,
Meeting House Cottage,
Sibford Gower,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
November 13.

From Mr Tom U. Meyer
Sir, Mr Gerald Priestland must not worry. Privatising the fighting services has already begun with HM dockyards (the naval equivalent of REME, who could, perhaps, be next on the list).

Yours faithfully,
TOM U. MEYER,
As at Meadow Bank,
Lertyn,
Lostwithiel,
Cornwall,
November 12.

£3,000 by 3 o'clock.

A TSB personal loan can help you buy a new car, an extension on the house or your dream kitchen. Whether you bank with us or not, simply go to your local TSB branch. Fill in a form like the one below. More often than not, we will be able to give you an answer on the spot.

The bank that likes to say YES.



PERSONAL LOAN APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name: Customer 1 (Mr/Mrs/Miss) **JAMES MARSHALL**

Customer 2 (Mr/Mrs/Miss) (joint accounts only)

Address: **3 VICTORIA ROAD, BELPER, DERBYSHIRE**

Number of dependent children under 18: **2**

Your date of birth: Customer 1: **1958** Customer 2:

Are you: Single ☐ Married ☒ Widowed ☐ Separated/Divorced ☐ Other ☐

Is your present home owned by you ☒ Owned/rented by your parents ☐ Rented accom. ☐ Other ☐

Tel. Nos. Home: **829121** Work: **829122**
Time at your present address: **4** yrs. **2** mths.
If less than 3 years please give your previous address:

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT

Customer 1. Your occupation: **SHOP MANAGER**

Your employer's name and address: **BROWNS (OUTFITTERS) LTD, HIGH STREET, BELPER**

Time employed there: **3** yrs. **—** mths.
If less than two years please give the name and address of your previous employer:

Customer 2 (joint accounts only). Your occupation:

Your employer's name and address:

Time employed there: **—** yrs. **—** mths.
If less than two years please give the name and address of your previous employer:

3. LOAN DETAILS

Purpose of Loan: **CAR**

Purchase price of item: **£3000**
The amount you are putting down yourself: **£1000**
Amount you wish to borrow: **£2000**

Payable over: **36** months
Date when you wish your monthly payments to commence: **1 DECEMBER 1985**

4. YOUR INCOME/OUTGOINGS

Your Net Monthly Income (take home pay)
Salary/Wages: **£520** per month
Husband/Wife's income: **£45** per month
Other income: **£—** per month
Total: **£565**

Your regular outgoings per month
Mortgage/Rent: **£156**
Instalment credit/hire purchase: **£—**
Other loans or commitments: **£—**
Total: **£156**

5. YOUR BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY

Please give the name and address of your bank branch. (If you have no bank account give the name and address of a building society branch where you have an account.) If you have neither, leave blank.

TSB, KING STREET, BELPER, DERBYSHIRE, DE5 1FX

If you have a TSB cheque account please give your account number.

770506 04207160

6. ACCIDENT, SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT COVER

If you do NOT require cover please tick here and delete section marked * below ☐ 0 ☒ 1

I/We confirm that the above information is correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, and agree that the Bank may make any enquiries it thinks fit regarding this application.

*I/We hereby authorise TSB to include the insurance premium in the amount advanced and to pay the premium to the insurers.

I/We understand that for joint borrowers the free life insurance and, where selected, the accident, sickness and unemployment cover apply only to the first-named borrower.

Signature Customer 1 _____ Date _____

Customer 2 _____ Date _____

Example of monthly repayments.

Interest 12% per annum flat.

£1,000 loan including accident, sickness and unemployment insurance			
	12 mths: APR 23.78%	24 mths: APR 23.91%	36 mths: APR 23.48%
Insurance premium	£89.66	£109.60	£142.35
Total interest	130.74	266.32	411.41
Monthly payment	101.70	57.33	43.16
Total amount payable	1,220.40	1,375.92	1,553.76

£1,000 loan excluding accident, sickness and unemployment insurance			
	12 mths: APR 23.78%	24 mths: APR 23.91%	36 mths: APR 23.48%
Total interest	£119.96	£240.08	£360.08
Monthly payment	93.33	51.67	37.78
Total amount payable	1,119.96	1,240.08	1,360.08



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Private bonanza in the pipeline

THE TIMES
1785-1985

This Bicentenary Focus examines how the gas industry has grown from street lighting to a billion-pound corporation

The British Gas Corporation, as it enters the year in which it will move into the private sector, is in the fortunate position of having plenty of customers and adequate gas supplies to sell. It is also in the probably less welcome position of having no shortage of advice about how it should be run in future years.

How British Gas will operate in future will be a matter for Parliament, which will shortly be given details of the legislation for moving the corporation into the private sector and of the regulatory authority that will oversee its dealings with its customers and its suppliers.

The present management have their own view of what should be done, but have been prevented from entering into what is now becoming a public debate on how the industry should run. Even those strongest opponents of privatization and its strongest supporters agree that the industry is efficiently managed.

In 1973 the corporation emerged in its present form after the 1972 Gas Act which requires it "to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of gas supply for Great Britain and to satisfy, so far as it is economical to do so, all reasonable demands for gas in Great Britain".

Now it is the largest single supplier of fuel to homes, factories and offices and when fuel for road transport is deducted it supplies 44 per cent of Britain's energy needs. Its

share of the domestic market increases almost daily and 60 per cent of homes have gas supplies and a third of industry uses gas.

It is its uniqueness that has contributed to its financial success during the past years and made it such a ripe target for privatization.

Because it is a wholly integrated industry - the only gas utility in the world which does everything from exploring for gas to delivering to the customer - it has been able to control the pace of its growth and to allocate investment funds and resources in a way which has allowed a programme of carefully planned growth.

But the industry is not a monolith. Most of its 93,000 workforce are in its 12 regions and each region is a large industry in its own right. The largest, North Thames, has more than two million customers and 9,800 employees.

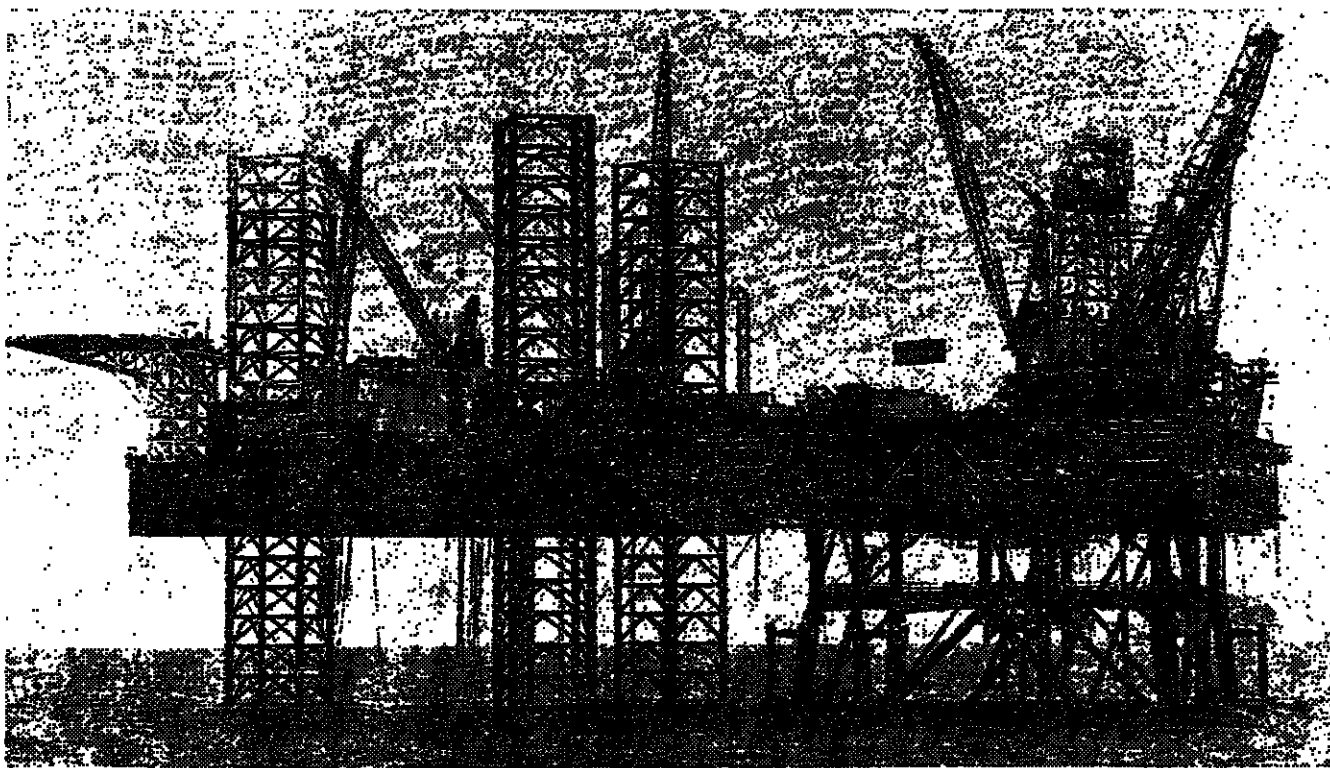
Each region is responsible for controlling the mains in its area - there are 144,000 miles of mains in Britain - for reading meters and collecting accounts and for answering the 14 million service calls each year.

Each region also controls its own network of High Street outlets. There are 8,000, most in prime town centre sites, and they account for a huge slice of the corporation's assets.

The corporation has, therefore, been a target for the "privatizers" for several years. First, on the basis of splitting it up into saleable parcels, based either on the regional structure or on a business-by-business basis. Placing the High Street shops in the private sector was



Men and machinery: Sir Denis Rooke, top, British Gas chairman, chief executive R. Evans, and a drilling tender alongside a platform



an early target, which with co-operation between the trade unions and the management, was fought off.

Since then, Sir Denis Rooke, the chairman, has made it clear that any fragmentation of his industry - a word coined by his opposite number at the Central Electricity Generating Board, the equally forceful Lord Marshall - would be opposed.

But one major battle was lost before Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, announced that the corporation is to move into the private sector in its entirety. That was on the sale of its oil producing assets and is a subject on which Sir Denis and his management colleagues may yet have the final say.

The decision by the Department of Energy to remove the oil producing assets from the corporation was, they said, an obvious move as its business is to produce and to sell gas, not oil. The corporation argued that the search for gas often finds oil and the search for oil almost always reveals gas and it should be allowed to capitalize on the

expertise of its exploration department.

It has also started the development of Britain's largest onshore oilfield at Wytch Farm in Dorset and was forced to hand over the operatorship to BP and to sell its share of the field to a consortium of smaller companies. Its offshore oil production assets were floated off to become Enterprise Oil, now one of the largest independent

Likely predator in the oil sector

and among the most aggressively expansionist.

Once in the private sector, however, the corporation will be able to move back into the oil business. Because of its size and earnings, it is seen as a likely predator in the oil sector. There are even those in the oil business who predict that Sir Denis, with his new-found financial freedom, will stride through the stock market and possibly buy Enterprise and

hand back its exploration portfolio to his own staff.

While it has been decided that the corporation should move into the private sector as one huge unit with a value of anything between £8 billion and £10 billion, most of its critics in the past are arguing that it should be split up into smaller units.

Some use this argument for political reasons, others financial, and even others take a nationalistic view. It has been suggested that a Scottish Gas or a Welsh Gas could stand on their own, controlling their own distribution system and retail outlets and buying their supplies from a separate supply company.

In the case of Scottish Gas it has also been suggested that it could run its own exploration and distribution system and take control of those North Sea assets in the waters which are described as "Scottish territorial" by the nationalists.

The political argument put forward by the Bow Group is based on the view that a state-

owned monopoly is likely to be replaced by a private monopoly with such a wide spread of shareholders that the management will be provided with few commercial constraints.

The answer, the Bow Group says, is to auction the offshore production assets, leave the pipeline and distribution system as a public sector utility, and sell the regional boards separately.

Trade unions opposed to privatization

Trade unions in the industry are opposed to its privatization and their campaign, launched early this month, will be centred on winning support from the undoubted thousands of gas customers who are happy with the service.

The management's answer is that they will continue to receive an excellent and safe service, but that the lack of constraint on investment once it is in the private sector will

allow the development of an even more efficient industry. Much of the City seems to agree with the management. Humphrey Harrison and John Thompson, energy analysts at stockbrokers Fielding, Newson-Smith, have conducted a one-off analysis of the corporation.

Their conclusions will be music to the ears of the management who have been arguing all along they were doing it right. "With strong cash-flow and a declining UK capital expenditure programme, substantial opportunities will exist to diversify from the UK economy at a time when other energy companies are being forced into distressed sales."

"British Gas plc will be able to spend more than £3 billion before 1990 on top of its existing capital expenditure programme. Providing management can convince shareholders of these merits we believe it will be a major success", they say.

David Young
Energy Correspondent

JANUARY 21, 1807
The Times reported on Mr Winsor's gas illuminations in Pall Mall.
Last Saturday night a select party of the nobility, among whom were Lord Minto, the new Governor-General of the Indies, with his Lady and friends, Lord H. Petty, &c. &c. inspected Mr. Winsor's discovery in Pall Mall, and seemed much gratified by the gas flame serving for lights and culinary purposes. Among various experiments, the boiling a kettle, and smelting ore, at the same instant, on a paper tube - burning lights under a glass globe - producing a light-house which no wind or water could extinguish, excited admiration. Afterwards the Noble Party viewed the illuminations in the Committee room, saloon, dining and drawing-rooms.

MAY 15, 1964
Regulations are introduced to allow the Government to issue licences for exploration of oil and natural gas in the North Sea.
Regulations which will enable the Government to issue licences to oil companies and other interests wishing to search for and extract oil and natural gas from under the North Sea were published yesterday by the Ministry of Power. From May 20 applications for exploration and production licences are being invited for about 100,000 square miles of the North Sea. An Order in Council, made on Tuesday, designates this as an area in which the United Kingdom may exercise prospecting rights. The order follows ratification by the United Kingdom on Monday of the Continental Shelf Convention.

MAY 8, 1985
The Government announced plans to privatize the British Gas Corporation.
A massive share sale on the scale of British Telecom is expected within the next two years after the Government's announcement yesterday that it plans to privatize the whole of the British Gas Corporation "as speedily as possible".
The decision to bring the corporation into the private sector and sell it on the stock market was announced in the Commons by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy. His statement confirms that the Government has rejected more radical plans for breaking up the corporation to generate more competition in the gas industry.

Like most people, Colin Welland prefers gas for home heating. But, like many people, he didn't realise that gas provides getting on for sixty per cent of all the heat used in British homes. Nor did he know that it's the most widely used heat source in industry, or that this domestic and industrial demand brings many benefits to Britain. Benefits like jobs for British workers.

For example, the gas people's own giant Morecambe Field, offshore from Blackpool, is being developed at a cost of more than one-and-a-half billion pounds. The major part of this massive investment is being spent with British firms, which has led to the creation of literally thousands of jobs for British workers. So, in a very real sense, Britain benefits because people prefer gas. Ask Colin Welland.

"BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE FUEL
MAKES JOBS FOR BRITISH WORKERS"



PEOPLE PREFER GAS-
AND BRITAIN BENEFITS

BRITISH GAS

مکان اقامت

FOCUS



The land before and after: left, 146 miles of pipeline for North Sea gas being laid down the east coast of Scotland, and right, how it disappeared under farmland

Changing over every cooker in the land

At the time it seemed chaotic. It spawned a series of apocalyptic stories and put some people off gas for years. Yet the conversion of every single gas appliance in Britain to use natural gas in a period of ten years was an engineering and consumer relations exercise which has never been equalled.

More than £1,000 million was spent on new pipelines - natural gas is delivered at a much higher pressure than the previous coal gas and town gas supplies - and every cooker, boiler, water heater, gas fire and gas refrigerator had to be rejected to burn the new gas.

Remarkably, at the end of September 1977, the conversion programme was completed on time and within budget and the riches of the North Sea - many people felt that the day when they personally would benefit it would never dawn - started to flow into almost every home.

Beneath fields and open moorlands a new web of mains had been laid, longer than the country's entire motorway network.

The gas that flowed from the North Sea fields is a result of the decay of carboniferous vegetation or microscopic marine life. Porous rock traps the resultant gas and oil and surrounding impervious rock forms reservoirs which are identified by British Gas scientists using modern geophysical techniques.

One way potential gas and oil bearing rock structures are found is using sea or airborne magnetometers to detect slight anomalies in the magnetic fields of the earth's crust. The broad

areas identified by magnetic surveys are further explored by seismic research.

The interpretation of seismic data is a highly skilled job, which when complete tells the exploration drilling crews the areas to investigate.

British Gas runs its exploration through its subsidiaries, Hydrocarbons Great Britain, Hydrocarbons Ireland and Gas Council (Exploration).

The gas that BGC finds and buys from the oil companies who operate in the North Sea comes ashore at one of four

terminals, St Fergus in north east Scotland and Theedlethorpe, Bacton or Easington on the English east coast where it is further treated - most associated liquids and oil have already been removed at the production platforms - and filtered to meet BGC's standards.

It is then that BGC makes a significant addition. It adds the smell. Natural gas is completely odourless and for safety reasons its characteristic smell is added. Methanol is also added to prevent solids forming in the pipelines.

There are more than 4,200

kilometers of national gas mains, some of them up to 42 inches in diameter and several operating at up to seventy times atmospheric pressure. Pressure in the mains is kept up by a network of pumping stations (powered by the same type of Rolls Royce engines as power Concorde and Boeing 747 airliners) housed in sound proofed buildings.

Because gas is no longer stored in every town, the controlling of the national grid is crucial. A sudden cold snap can send demand up five-fold and supplies from the national

mains have to be fed to the 22,000 kilometers of local distribution mains exactly when the customers want it.

For that reason BGC has developed two of the world's most advanced gas storage systems. The main one involves actually using a depleted North Sea gas field and is nearing completion.

BGC engineers hit on the idea of pumping gas from the producing North Sea fields during the summer, when demand is low, into the Rough reservoir which is near the coast and already connected by

pipeline to the national transmission system. The Rough Field is able to pump ashore 1,000 million cubic feet a day and help BGC meet sudden up surges in demand.

The other storage is equally imaginative and innovative. At Hornsea near Beverly on Humberside, geologists found that the vast strata of salt which stretch across Northern Europe and under the North Sea, come to an end under the Yorkshire moors.

Drilling rigs, the type used for oil exploration, have drilled deep into the salt strata and

then water is pumped in. The brine produced is pumped out and the process continued over several months until a massive bell-shaped underground cavern is created.

Computer aided techniques enable the BGC engineers to determine the size and shape of the caverns and when completed the Hornsea site will sit above seven man-made caverns. Four caverns are already used to store natural gas drawn off the national transmission system and have already been called on to pump back into the national grid its biggest ever

demand when, on Friday January 13, the coldest day of the year was recorded and 8,834 million cubic feet of gas were consumed.

The Hornsea salt caverns will be able to store 8,500 million cubic feet and meet demands from a city the size of Sheffield for more than two months.

Gas is also liquefied for storage. At temperatures of minus 160C it becomes a liquid and its volume dramatically falls. Several double-skinned tanks have been built and although much smaller than traditional gas holders they can hold as much as six hundred times as much gas.

The network of liquid storage tanks hold enough to meet about 25 per cent of Britain's daily output, so together with the Hornsea salt caverns would be able to supply most domestic demand in the unlikely event of all four supply links from the North Sea and the link from BCG's own large field in Morecambe Bay becoming disrupted at the same time.

BCG is playing its own part in cutting waste and slimming its operations. Sir Denis Rooke, the BCG chairman who will lead it into the private sector, said: "An element within the corporation's success has been a willingness of employees at all levels to adapt to changing circumstances and to co-operate in the drive for further efficiency. Maximizing efficiency is rarely a painless exercise and the efforts made during the year to reduce costs have involved the most searching scrutiny of all activities."

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When it stopped being a music hall joke

In the years immediately after the war the gas industry became a music hall joke, albeit unjustified.

Ironically the industry started in the music halls with the scientists of the day using gas as an entertainment rather than a fuel.

In the early 1950s the industry was suffering from lack of investment by the private companies who had started it and the effects of the war on manpower and the basic infrastructure.

By then the industry was also into its second century, and while new-ways computer analysis can provide every engineering component with a defined life, the products of the Victorian engineers were already well beyond their reasonable life.

Attitudes were also different, and when the electric cooker of the 1950s appeared, on the scene it was the equivalent of the micro-chip controlled micro-wave cooker of today. It looked

different, it appeared to be easier to keep clean than the pre-war gas cookers and it fitted precisely with the new wave of advertising and consumerism.

Gas was, as they said at the time, not "is." It was smelly, the available appliances were outdated, the worn-out gas main system was causing deaths and accidents were frequent. Although the appliance industry could hardly be blamed - the skills they had were exactly the skills needed to produce more warlike equipment and that is where their efforts had been channelled.

Until the 1960s the gas industry was in danger of going down the same path as the National Coal Board. It was losing customer confidence and its market share to the electricity industry and to the oil companies, who for the first time brought marketing skills to the domestic and industrial markets.

Oil-fired central heating became popular and industry switched to oil-fired boilers - after a tanker load of oil was cheaper than a lorry load of coal and much more convenient to unload and store. Gas and coal were nationalized industries and what money they had could not be spent on advertising and marketing campaigns.

In 1964 the gas industry started to turn its back on the coal industry as its primary source of material and embraced the oil industry. Throughout the early 1960s more oil was used to make gas, and then in 1964 the first natural gas arrived in Britain from Algeria.

It had to be frozen until it became a liquid before it could be transported and the storage tanks at Canvey Island were basically frozen earth caverns. The high pressure mains systems required to cope with natural gas started to spread north from Canvey Island and within two years

there was over 500 kilometers of pipeline forming the basis of a new national gas grid.

However, as Algerian gas was being delivered Britain's first natural gas field, West Sole, was found. In an incredible year the management of British Gas had taken the decision to bring forward the development of the gas fields in the Southern sector of the North Sea and convert the whole country to a new fuel - North Sea Gas.

Within 10 years, and within budget, the whole country had been converted to natural gas.

While Sir Denis Rooke would be the first to be amused by being described as a "Prince Charming" his industry was tagged with a Cinderella label until natural gas came along. Once it had been developed BGC used its own marketing and advertising skills to create a market which is still growing.

Sir Denis said: "The men and

women of the gas industry have always strived to create and maintain for the benefit of customers an efficient system of gas supply in Great Britain.

"And since nationalization many new challenges have had to be faced, some stemming from changing economic circumstances, others from social developments and the growing expectation of customers. Perhaps the greatest of these has been met in technical spheres with the two local revolutions in gas production within a decade.

Sir Denis's deputy, Mr Bob Evans, the BGC chief executive, said: "We are equally pleased to see in the Government's proposals recognition of the gas customers' special position, as well as that of employees. How customers will benefit has yet to be worked out like the rest of the detail. It is the least our customers deserve."

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Natural asset that saved an industry

Twenty-five years ago the gas industry was thought to be a burnt out case. Uncompetitive in price and service, it was losing out to oil. Today it is the country's largest single supplier of fuel to homes, factories and offices.

What happened? The answer is natural gas. Its benefits to industry have been enormous. In 1968 British Gas was selling 951 million therms to industry. To-day the figure is 6,000 million therms - a six fold increase.

In the view of Dr Eric Clatworthy, director of Industrial and Commercial Gas Sales, a man who was brought in from the oil industry, what has happened with the advent of natural gas is that "industry has become more efficient and more competitive."

It sounds extraordinary now, but when natural gas first came on stream British Gas did not even have a marketing division. Town gas was town gas. It all changed with the advent of natural gas, and industrial use was the target area.

The strategy was to displace the oil industry, which meant negotiating non-tariff contracts with individual concerns, proving that gas could give a more cost-effective service. A large amount of gas was sold on an interruptible basis. Not easy when companies had to be told that in periods of cold either the supply would have to be reduced or even cut off and they would have to resort to the traditional means of fuel supply.

There would always be, of course, industries which had to rely on gas - the special treatment of fine metals, glass, ceramics and china. But that would have never been sufficient to sustain the heavy investment that British Gas put into its new product.

The marketing campaign was massively expensive. The first customer was the British Sugar Corporation, to be followed by a more extensive use of gas by ICI, the British Steel Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board, supplying gas to the power stations for years.

Today, British Gas has cornered 36 per cent of the fuel supplies to industry; in 1968 it was only 4 per cent. Sales of gas to industry are now worth £1,600 million.

Although there are plentiful



Looking at the benefits to industry: Dr Eric Clatworthy, director of Industrial and Commercial Gas Sales

reserves of natural gas available to meet projected premium demand for gas into the next century, the reserves will not last forever. That is why British Gas is determined to hold itself in the forefront of gas-making technology by developing processes for producing, from a variety of feedstocks, a substitute natural gas (SNG) which is interchangeable with the natural gas now being distributed.

Research and development has played an important part in the change that has taken place, particularly the service that can be offered to industry. For industry and commerce, the conversion to natural gas was backed-up by a much wider use of gas, stimulated by improved burners, more economical furnaces and more sophisticated control systems.

British Gas spent £70m on research development and testing in the 1984/85 financial year. Much of this effort is directed at cost reduction, energy efficiency, safety, and the opening of new options for future energy supply.

Much of the research for industrial application is carried

out at the Midlands Research Station at Solihull. The £3 million R & D programme is carried out on a customer-contractor basis. In other words, the customer is consulted at all stages so that his requirements can be met.

Research and development is planned on a five-year "rolling" basis, and is updated each year

Research and development is updated each year to meet the customers' changing needs

so that the changing needs of the customers can be taken into account.

Much of the effort of the Midlands Research Station is aimed at ensuring that the special qualities of natural gas are used to the best advantage in industrial heating processes. The main premium advantages are that gas can be readily taken to the point of use, avoiding heat losses on the way.

Heating of metals, traditionally, was carried out in batch furnaces, where the heat was brought to temperature. However, by using heating machines

tailored to the particular application as an integral part of a production line, heating can be made continuous and automatic.

The development of recuperative burners has proved a boon to industry. In the past, in high temperature industrial heating, it was not considered worthwhile to use recuperation

which can be installed in a furnace wall in much the same way as a conventional burner.

Then there has been the development of vat and tank heating. The use of steam generated from a central boiler has been common practice for heating liquids in vats and tanks for pickling, plating, washing, phosphating.

As a heating system, it is simple and compact, but the overall efficiency is low, generally less than 50 per cent because of inevitable transmission losses in piping the steam round the factory. More efficient heating can be achieved by piping gas to the tanks and heating with natural draught burners firing into immersion tubes.

The industrial use of gas has been one of the prime themes of the Midlands Research Station, providing, with the advent of natural gas, much of the technology behind the highly successful conversion of industrial sector and helping to ensure the effective use of a new fuel in new markets.

Michael Hatfield

Search for a substitute is now worldwide

The latest analyses of drilling activity in the North Sea from the Government and independent consultants would seem to indicate that "the day when the natural gas runs out" is being pushed further and further into the next century.

Natural gas is abundant throughout the world. The problem is that in most areas the gas is nowhere near the potential markets and the cost of liquefying it on site or building a long pipeline is prohibitive.

Britain is luckier than most. The gas fields in the southern sector of the North Sea are easily connectable to the shore distribution system and most of the new fields identified are close to existing subsea pipeline systems.

However, the research into finding an economical substitute for natural gas - a far cry from the smelly and poisonous coal gas previously produced and the town gas produced from expensive naphtha - is going on and in most areas of research Britain leads the world.

It is this long-term commitment to ensuring supplies that is making British Gas such an attractive potential investment and giving the large industrial users confidence to invest in expensive gas-burning heating and process equipment.

Although the world's first purpose-built plant to produce synthetic natural gas (SNG) from coal has been built at Great Plains, North Dakota, it relies heavily on British Gas technology. The plant produces almost 140 million cubic feet a day from coal and used the Catalytic Rich Gas (CRG) technique developed by British Gas and installed at the plant by British Gas engineers. As well as the CRG process being used, the plant also uses what is known as the British Gas Sireford process for the recovery of sulphur.

Both processes have won BGC valuable export earnings and the Sireford sulphurization process is used in over 200 applications throughout the world in the gas and chemical industries.

BGC has also co-operated with a Japanese utility, Osaka Gas, to develop a system for producing synthetic natural gas from low-value residual oil left after most refining processes. The oil is almost solid, further refining is often too costly and the only use is often as an

additive in power station coal

furnaces. BGC has found a way of producing gas from this oil in fluidized bed systems at a fraction of the cost of producing gas from other oils. However, both BGC and Osaka Gas recognize that present economics mean that the process is unlikely to have a commercial application, but nevertheless they have the technology ready if required.

Research has also shown that synthetic natural gas can be produced from coal fines, the small particles of dust produced during modern mining operations. In this area BGC has co-operated with Rockwell International in using combustion

Commercial application is far in the future

techniques developed for the engines of the Space Shuttle to gasify coal in a few seconds.

Again the commercial application is far in the future, but BGC takes the view that it is better to spread the cost and effort of such research over a long period rather than be rushed into developing such systems on a panic basis.

The most likely way of producing synthetic gas from coal will be in the modified Lurgi process which BGC has developed at Westfield, in Wiltshire. The plant there uses the most advanced process in the world, producing SNG from coal at four times the speed of other systems. The process, partly EEC funded, has already produced gas from 100,000 tonnes

of coal and could easily be put into commercial application in Britain when NCB coal prices drop to world levels.

Another process which has been developed for future application involves the use of an integrated plant to convert coal to gas and then burn the gas to produce electricity.

It is the application of such systems which BGC will be able to carry out when it moves into the private sector.

However, the main thrust of development in the future will be in the discovery and marketing of new natural gas fields in the North Sea.

BGC will continue to be a large investor in the North Sea in its own right as an exploration and production company and as a supporter of the many production schemes now being developed.

Mr Chris Brierley, BGC's managing director, economic planning, said that although the market for gas is already mature and competition strong demand is steadily growing in all market sectors and will continue to do so well into the 1990s.

He said: "Certainly in Britain, gas now has a large competitive margin over oil, and it would take a very dramatic fall in oil prices before interruptible gas customers (the large industrial users which accept the possibility of supplies being cut during high domestic demand - in return for lower tariffs) started switching over to fuel oil."

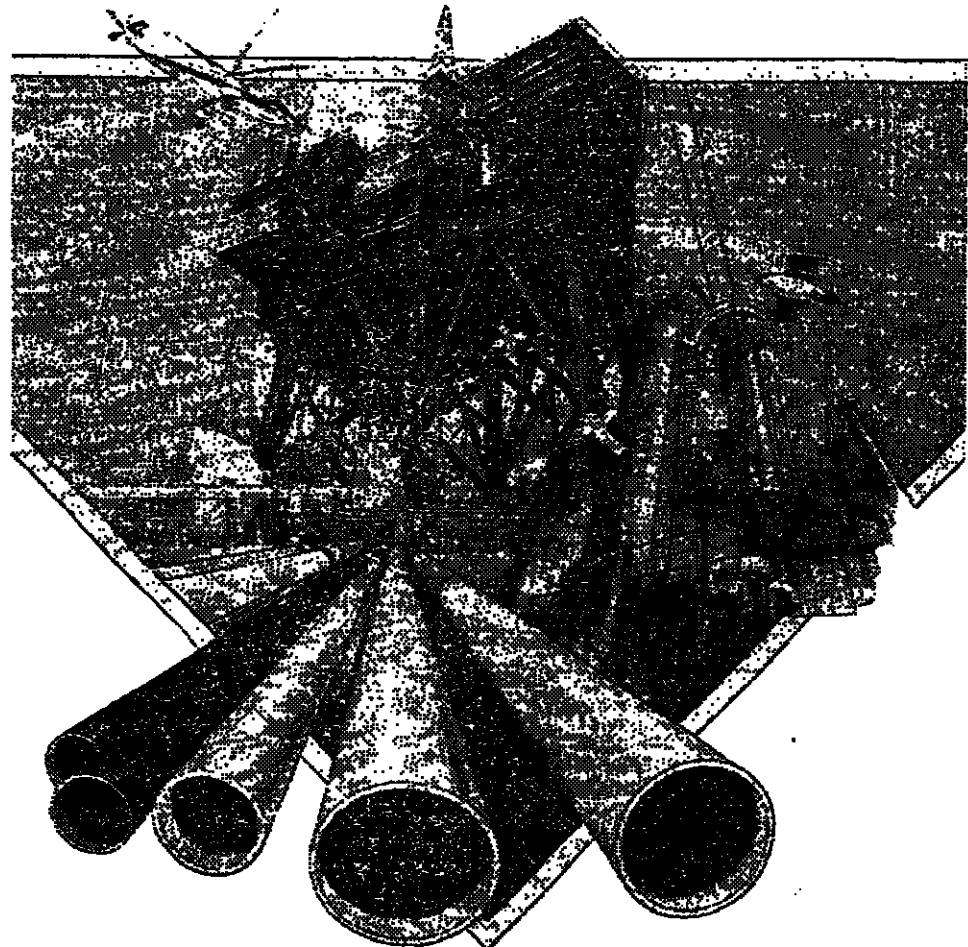
"For the time being we have plenty of supply to support the planned growth in our markets which is being achieved."

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In the pipeline: First North Sea gas piped ashore at Easington, Yorkshire, in March 1967.

BRITISH STEEL FOR BRITISH GAS



Throughout the spectacular growth of the UK Gas Industry, following the discovery of Gas reserves in the North Sea, British Steel Corporation has been the major supplier of pipe both onshore and offshore to the British Gas Corporation and the oil and gas industry.

Our scope of supply encompasses the largest transmission mains to the smallest distribution lines, but whatever the product, quality and reliability are paramount. That's why BSC has spent tens of millions of pounds in recent years ensuring that its mills are kept to the forefront of pipemaking technology. This has resulted in British Gas accepting the use of our welded linepipe for high pressure gas transmission mains.

British Steel Corporation has also been involved in

the supply of oil country tubular goods and structural plate for British Gas offshore projects as well as numerous oil company developments bringing gas into the UK system.

We look forward to continuing our close relationship with the British Gas Corporation to ensure we continue to meet the requirements of this demanding industry.

British Steel Corporation Tubes Division
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Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1UA.
Tel: Corby (0536) 202121 Telex: 341561.

General Steels Group
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Natural North Sea gas, both its extraction and delivery, has had more impact on the daily lives of the people of Britain over the last 15 years than the much-publicised discoveries of crude oil.

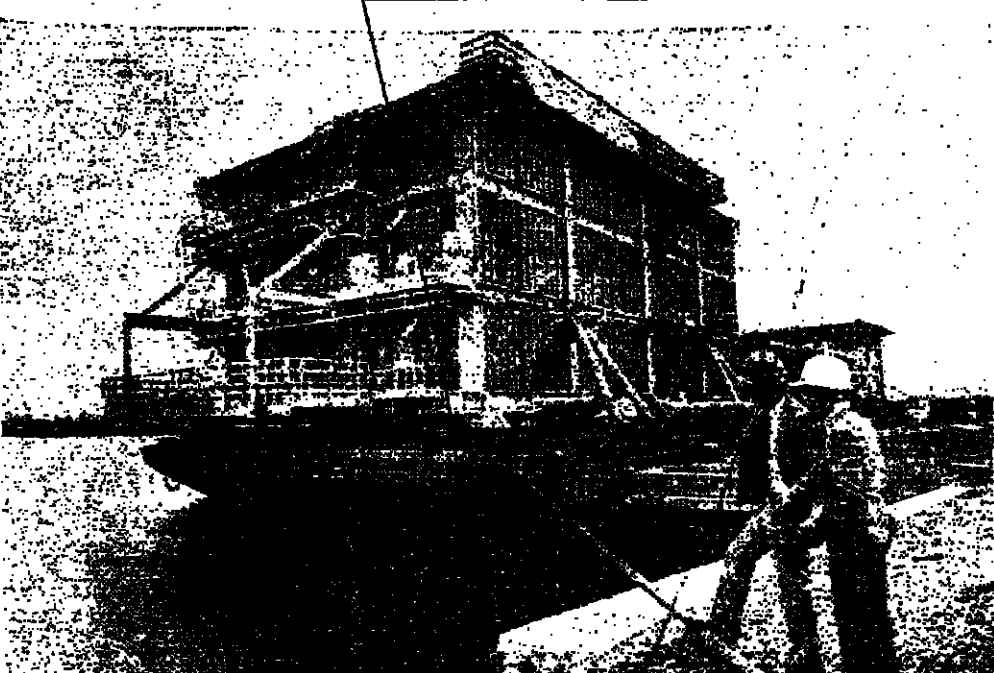
Hardly a community in the land has remained untouched by the arrival of the new wonder-fuel. A mind-bending technological and engineering feat has ensured that the vast quantities of gas needed to heat and power homes and industry are piped, non-stop, from below the North Sea bed to the mainland.

Natural gas available in the UK rose from a mere 2.5 million therms in 1957 to 315 million in 1967. But after that the amount of gas piped from the North Sea bounded to more than 10,000 million therms in 1972-73 and last year to about 18,000 million therms.

According to British Gas statistics, proven and probable UK reserves of gas remaining have risen from 40.6 trillion cu ft (tcf) to 46.8tcf, bringing total initial reserves in present discoveries to 64.6tcf, with a further possible 22.7tcf.

The corporation has interests in 55 blocks in the North Sea and nine in offshore Ireland, a measure of the huge gas-gathering operation. Last year British Gas completed nine offshore exploration wells and has also participated in drilling 22 exploration and appraisal wells both off and on shore.

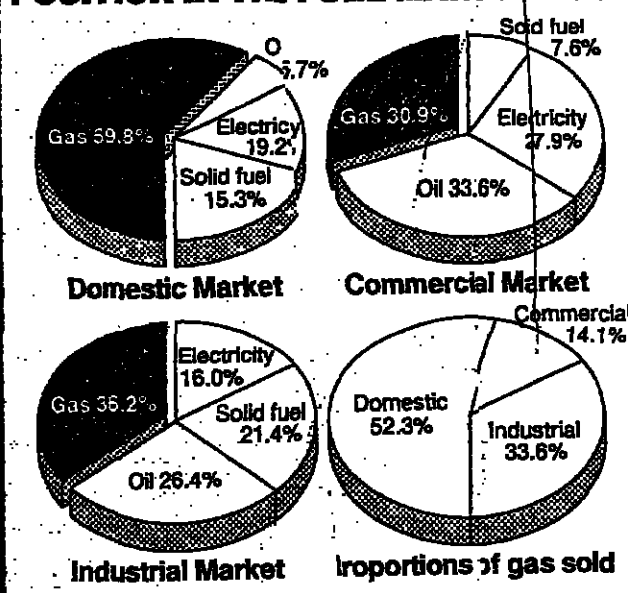
The extraction of gas, as with oil, has involved the creation of a new British industry, much of



Life afloat: An accommodation module for the Rough Field in the North Sea

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POSITION IN THE FUEL MARKET - 1984



Fiercely competitive offshore sector

it based in Scotland, that is reckoned to be capable of supplying about 70 per cent of offshore industry's needs.

However, there is always room for more. Alick Buchanan-Smith, the energy minister, recently expressed concern that many small companies particularly in the north east had failed to grasp the business potential of the industry and many potential entrepreneurs had lacked the correct approach to get into the business.

He said: "There is still room for newcomers to the offshore industry, and for those already established to increase their involvement. But the offshore sector is fiercely competitive."

On the research and development front, British Gas is spending large amounts on natural gas production. Among the projects are a major sub-sea engineering experimental facility to support the corporation's exploration activities at Blyth Dry Docks in Northumberland. Another is the development of Gasowise, a system developed by British Gas for measuring wave-induced loads in underwater structures.

The corporation's efforts have also developed a computer program called Progress, which simulates the behaviour of

natural gas reservoirs and has been used extensively on North Sea fields. It has now been licensed to a US oil company.

Two of the industry's large projects, the Morecambe Bay gas discovery and the Rough field gas storage system highlight research and development effort - and the technology employed by British Gas. Together they will mop up a significant proportion of the £2,525 million capital expenditure planned by the corporation over the next five years.

The Morecambe Bay field, which is costing £1.3 billion to develop, is 23 miles off the coast in the Irish Sea and is

among the largest gas fields on the UK continental shelf. Innovative engineering was needed to exploit the field, located in shallow water, and the eventual solution was to build a central complex of three lined platforms, for processing, accommodation and drilling, plus two more remote drilling platforms.

McDermott Engineering was awarded the design contract and Brown and Root and Taywood-San Fe and Matthews Hall Engineering the project management and fabrication aspects.

The development produced many technical innovations which undoubtedly will be used

in future projects, including, for example, the use of a high nickel content copper alloy sheeting wrapped around and welded to members of the offshore structure to avoid corrosion in the splash zone.

Another first was the design and fabrication of the 34ft high dehydration vessels for the separation of the gas. Morecambe Bay's platforms and pipelines also had to be able to cope with a reverse flow so that later in its life the field can be reinjected with gas to provided a huge reserve.

On the accommodation platform there is room for 176 men housed not, as is traditional, in two-man units but in four-man modules which give much more privacy than normally associated with the harsh life of offshore work.

Another sophisticated technique used on the rigs is slant drilling, and this requires the giant cranes which are usually anchored in one spot to be built on skids which allow them to travel around the platform.

The Rough Field project, represents the first time in the world that a partially depleted offshore gas field has been used as a reservoir for summer storage of gas to provide extra supplies for winter demand.

The field, in the North Sea off Humberside, will allow storage of 80 billion cu ft although the actual capacity might be greater. The three platforms are connected to the land by a 36in pipeline and an 18in infield pipeline.

James McHugh, managing director of production and supply and member of the corporation, stresses that the £2 billion invested in the Morecambe Bay and Rough projects has provided employment for 8,000 direct workers in Scotland and the north-east employed in fabrication work and many thousands more supplying materials and services.

Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

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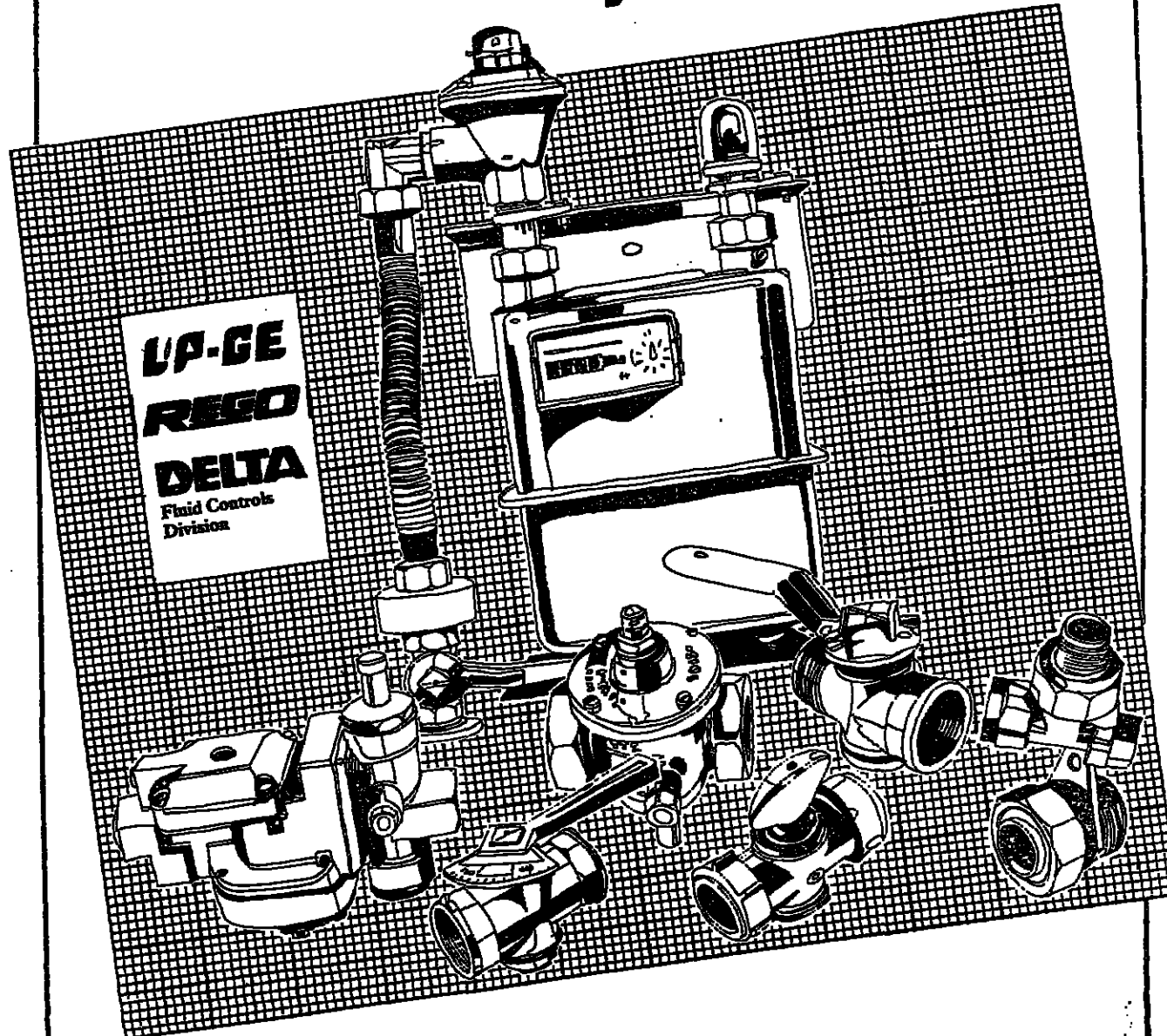
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Energy from the earth discovered many times



The most extraordinary thing about the history of gas is how often it was "discovered" and how little was done about each discovery. Science in the 17th century was mainly controlled by enthusiastic gentleman amateurs who were in no hurry to publish their findings, and in any case had no means of mass communication.

In 1659 one such gentleman, Thomas Shirley, became fascinated by a burning spring near a Wigan coal pit. The phenomenon occurred as a result of escaping gas - the fire damp which plagued coal miners. But it was not until eight years later that the Royal Society published his paper - *A description of a well and earth in Lancashire taking fire by a candle approaching it*.

A young theology student with a strong interest in science, the Rev John Clayton, eventually got to hear of Thomas Shirley's work. In 1684, a quarter of a century after Shirley's investigations, Clayton

started, literally, to dig around. From 18 inches below the surface near the spring he removed some "shale" coal and conducted the first experiments into the extraction and storage of coal-gas. But it was not until 1739 that his experiments were published by the Royal Society. By that time Clayton had been dead for 14 years.

John Clayton's paper described how: "I got some coal and distilled it in a retort in an open fire. At first there came only phlegm, afterwards a black

Light shone across the firth for miles

oil, and then likewise a spirit arose which I could nowise condense. . . . I observed that the spirit which issued out caught fire at the flame of the candle, and continued burning with violence as it issued out, in a stream, which I blew out, and lighted again, alternately, for several times; after which I fixed a bladder, squeezed and void of air, to the pipe of the receiver. I have frequently taken one of these bladders, and

pinching a hole therein with a pin, and compressing gently the bladder near the flame of a candle, it at once took fire. It would then continue flaming till all the spirit was compressed out of the bladder."

Extraction methods similar to these continued to be used until this century - and for this reason the Rev John Clayton has been described as the father of gas.

Meanwhile other scientifically minded men were dabbling in the collection and ignition of coal gas, particularly round the Whitehaven mines in Cumberland.

In 1730 Sir James Lowther, a mine owner, piped the fire-damp up from the coal seams to the surface, where he burned it continuously. He also collected some of the gas in sheep's bladders and demonstrated its burning properties to the Royal Society, which published his findings in 1733.

Carlisle Spedding, the agent for Lord Lonsdale's mines in the same town, was also finding time to experiment.

When a "strong blower" of damp air was discovered 250



William Murdoch demonstrating the use of gas for lighting in his own home, and right, a portrait of the Scots inventor

feet underground, he ignited it at its point of exit at ground level.

But Spedding went further than Sir James Lowther. He piped the damp air from the coal pit to the laboratory of a Whitehaven scientist Dr William Brownrigg. But the gas was not used for experiments, but simply to heat Dr Brownrigg's furnaces.

Spedding is also said to have offered the harbour trustees enough gas to illuminate Whitehaven. If they would pay for the pipework. This offer, if made, was never taken up. Instead, in 1765, Spedding contented himself with using the gas from the mine to illuminate his own offices.

In 1767 Richard Watson, professor both of divinity and chemistry at Cambridge, published his own account of how to prepare inflammable gas. In 1782 he gave further details and

also suggested that gas from coke ovens could be put to practical use. Watson later became Bishop of Llandaff, but nothing was to come of his experiments.

Meanwhile Archibald Cochrane, 9th Earl of Dundonald, was hoping to restore his family fortune by producing coke and tar at Culross on the Firth of Forth. He disposed of the escaping vapours by igniting them. The resultant light shone across the firth, and could be seen for miles.

But the earl was preoccupied with the commercial implications of coal tar, and it did not occur to him that the inflammable gases might also have money-making potential.

In France, Philippe Lebon, an engineer, was experimenting with lighting powered by gas generated from burning wood - a thermolampe. His assistant was a German, Friedrich

Winzer, who was later to change his name to Fredrick Winsor and become one of the great coal gas entrepreneurs.

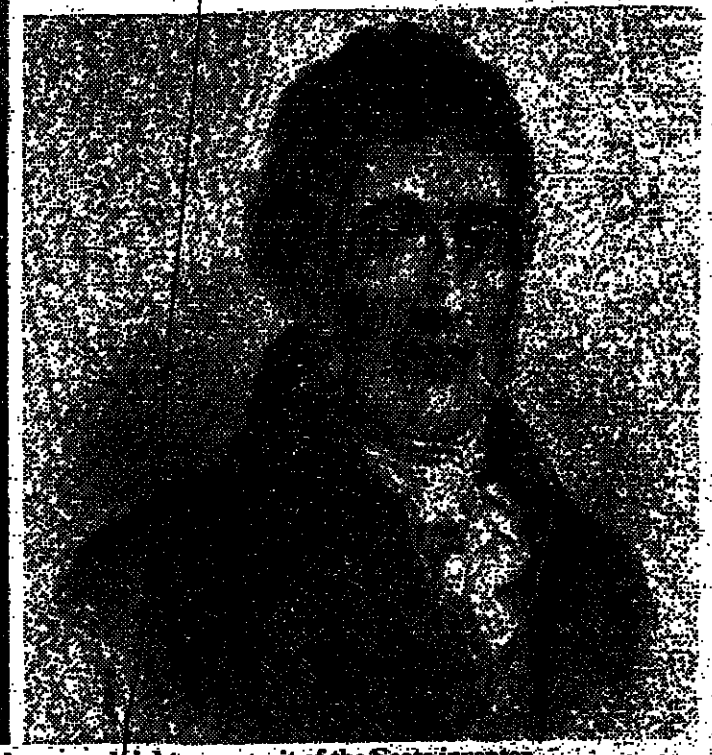
At this point the story becomes more complex. Philippe Lebon had the sense to take out a patent "for new methods of employing combustible materials more effectively, either for heating or lighting or for obtaining certain products".

In 1801 he staged an exhibition in Paris which was seen by Gregory Watt, second son of the steam engine inventor James Watt, who was deeply impressed.

But James Watt had already seen the potential of combustible gas much closer to home. One of his father's employees was William Murdoch, a brilliant Scottish engineer who had been carrying out his own experiments.

Ann Kent

Men who gave



Men who gave

Monty Python could not have had a greater flight of fantasy: a steam-driven carriage chugging across the hilly landscape of Cornwall, its headlights fuelled by a bladder of coal gas.

Accept it not as fantasy but as part of the beginning of gas as a source of light, its inventor was a Scots engineer called William Murdoch, who was the assistant to James Watt, the pioneer of the steam engine.

A decade later Murdoch was illuminating the outside of Boulton and Watt's Soho works in Birmingham with gas jets to mark the temporary halt in the 10-year war with France which came with the Peace of Amiens in 1802.

But if Murdoch originated the idea of lighting factories by gas there was someone else who had the vision of illuminating streets by gas-light - and it took a theatrical performance to get his ideas across.

Friedrich Winzer hired the Lyceum Theatre off the Strand to put on a photographic display of "entertainment". Five years after that, false dawn of peace with France, 13 lamp posts each with a three-jet glass globe were erected in Pall Mall, by permission of the Westminster authorities.

The first piped gas had arrived, from a furnace in Pall Mall, and part of The Mall was given another name - a name which could in some ways be symbolic of the difference between the approach of Murdoch and Winsor to the revolution of gas. It became known as Cockspur Street, which exists today.

Cockspur? The name originated out of Murdoch's development of gas for industry. There had been a cotton mill at Sowerby Bridge in Yorkshire. Continued on next page



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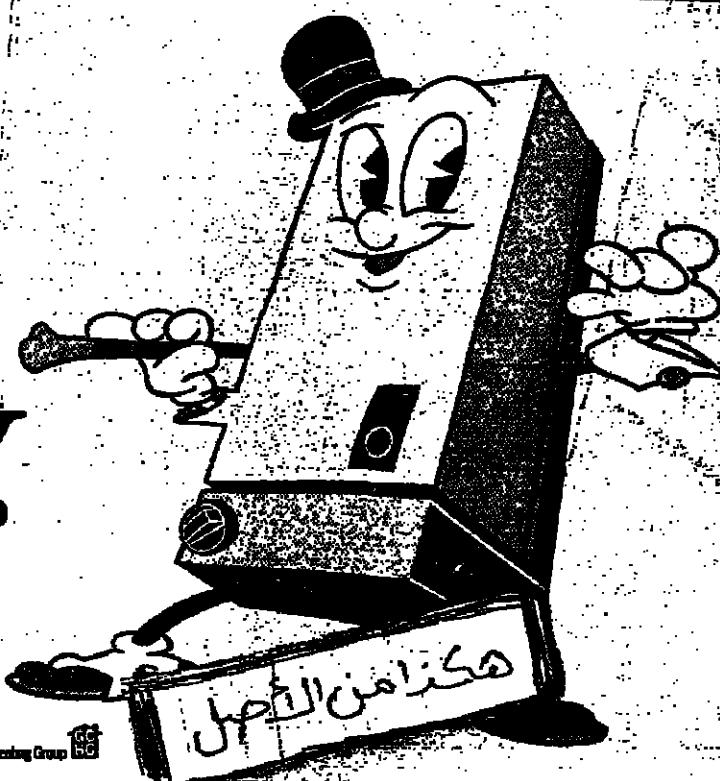
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us a revolution

Continued from previous page
and then there was a cotton mill at Salford in Lancashire. The spinners were delighted, and seeing that the flame from the gas jets was of a very different shape from that of a candle or oil lamp, said it looked like a cock's spur. The name stuck.

But why a gas furnace in Pall Mall? It was where Winsor had set up his office and home at No 27. When the Prince of Wales came to hear of Winsor's lectures and entertainments he asked him to put up gas-lights in the conservatory. In the grounds of Carlton House.

The prince was so taken by the effect that, to celebrate his father's birthday on June 4, 1805, he had Winsor mount gas-lit illuminations on the top of the wall which separated Carlton House from The Mall.

'As important as the Magna Carta'

so that Londoners could judge the effect of the revolutionary method of lighting for themselves and know that it had his support.

The gas was piped from two closed carbonizing iron furnaces at Winsor's house, the pipes laid beneath Pall Mall and into the Prince of Wales's garden.

Not everyone, however, was amused, as evidenced by a statement that Winsor made to the *Morning Advertiser*: "The persons who poured the liquid of asphalt along the garden wall are known, but their intent was defeated, as much as breaking the transparency with stones. They may bark at their own scent, but can never bite my Gas lights."

The following year the Westminster authorities allowed Winsor to build 13 lamp posts each with three jet-glass globes along the length of Pall Mall.

For Winsor it must have been the realization of a dream which began in Germany. He strongly believed that the best method of supplying gas was through pipes from a large gas manufactory rather than filling bladders with coal-gas and taking them to the places to be lit.

But getting his idea across was not easy. How was he to ease the public mind of the necessity of digging up streets so that pipes could be laid?

Winsor and Murdoch had totally different methods of convincing the public of the vast potential that gas had to offer. Winsor was impatient and often gave offence, but even so he was predicting in 1808 that

gas "may light all rooms, halls, shops, streets, squares, roads and coasts; and serve as a fire and light for every culinary purpose".

Murdoch, on the other hand, concentrated on lighting factories, as did a former assistant of his at Boulton and Watt. Samuel Clegg, who installed gas lighting in a cotton mill at Halifax. The acceptance of gas lighting, Murdoch felt, was going to be a slow process. He was more willing to take time than Winsor to make converts through the exposition of the facts and allow the obvious superiority of the new method, to speak for itself.

Britain's first gasworks were built by Winsor on a site off Cannon Row by the Thames. He stuck to his vision that the fuel should be piped from a central plant. A individual establishments each with its own plant. His idea was that there could be a non-stop supply of coal from Newcastle loaded from barges which would come up the river.

But the idea went wrong and the money dried up over the costly trial. But Winsor persisted, building a second gasworks off Horseferry Road in London, and it was brought into commission in 1813.

The Gas, Light and Coke Company had been set up the previous year. By 1843 many such companies were being taken over or created by local government.

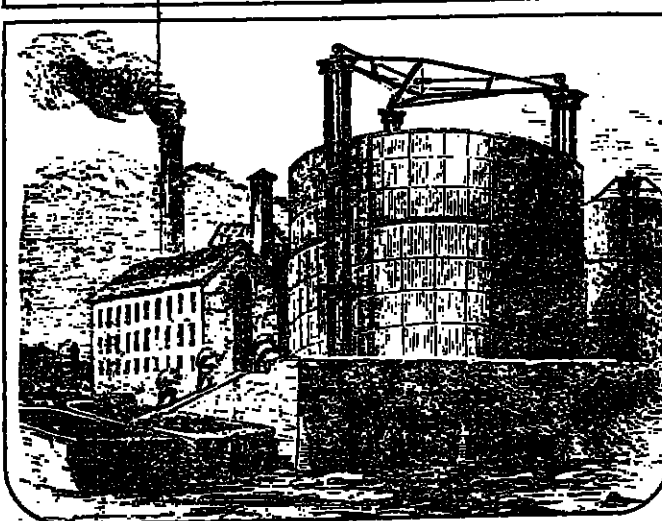
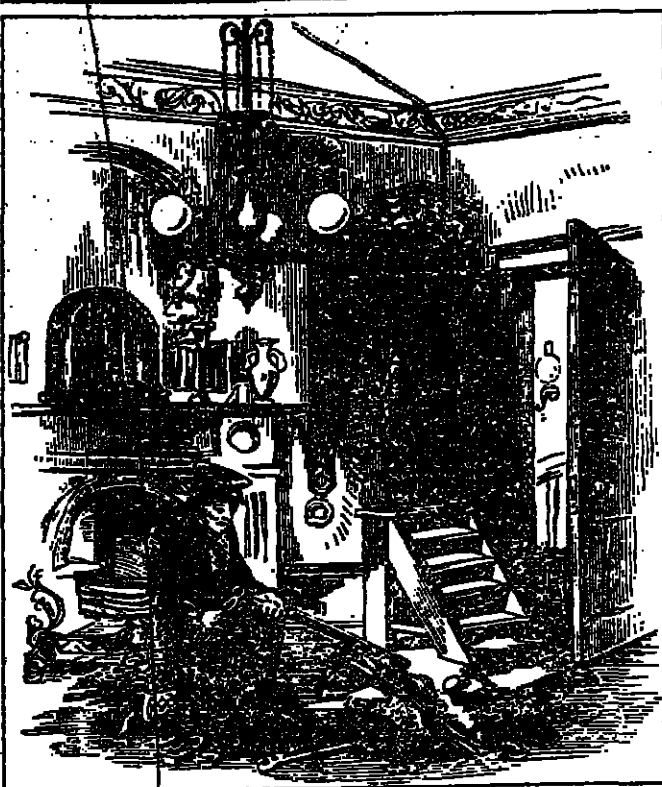
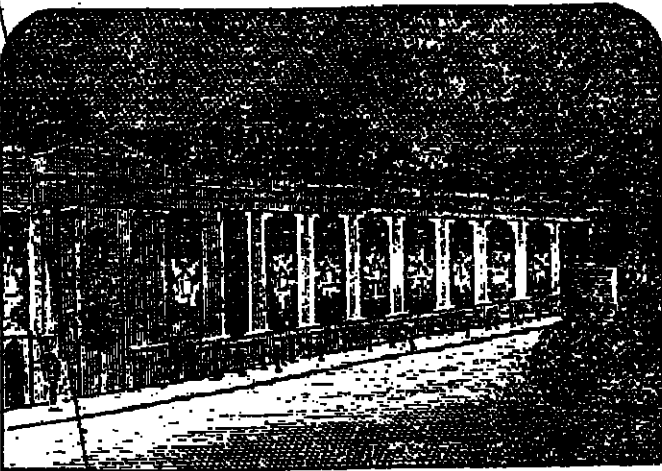
At one time there were three different gas companies digging up Cookpur Street to lay pipes. More than that, some were dishonest enough to supply gas from their competitors' mains.

But it was all part of the beginning of the gas revolution which Charles Dickens was to capture 50 years later.

He wrote: "It would have been a sight worth seeing - a picture worth drawing - the first laying a gas-pipe in London. The landing of Julius Caesar, the signing of the Magna Carta and the death of Harold, furnish more romantic groupings for historical painters; but no one can say that they were of more historical importance."

"Civilization took a vast stride on that eventful occasion - the living outdoor life of man was lengthened more than one-half; and yet no one was present to give the great world a pictorial record. The battle of Waterloo was a mere puff of smoke in comparison, for all its deposit of pictures, statues and treaties."

MH



From top: Carlton House lit by gas, fitters at work, and one of the early gasworks

How the new-found power found favour

Once it was realized that gas had the power to banish darkness from the streets of London, a thousand businessmen sprang into action.

They set up their own gas manufacturing companies - some very large, others extremely modest - all over Britain. Many succeeded in capitalizing on the new discovery, while also providing a much-welcomed public service.

The first gas company was granted a charter in 1810, to the chagrin of engineer William Murdoch, who had pioneered the first developments in gas and now found himself out of the cold.

The Gas, Light and Coke Company was given its charter on condition that its product was cheaper and brighter than candle or oil lighting. The new concern, universally known as the chartered company, had compulsory powers to lay pipes

No discounts, even for royalty

in the streets of London and Westminster.

It raised the capital in 1812, but technical difficulties over producing gas in large quantities delayed the opening of the plant until the following autumn.

The four streets around Parliament Square were among the first to be illuminated by piped gas.

In 1814 Samuel Clegg, a former assistant of Murdoch and one of the most knowledgeable technicians in the new industry, was appointed engineer to the chartered company. Up to this point, there had been no way of storing gas in bulk. Clegg instituted the gasholder which was to become a familiar part of the townscape.

Within a year, 30 miles of gas main had been laid in London. With splendid independence of spirit, the chartered company declined to give discounts even to royalty or to parliament, although it was more generous to hospitals and charitable institutions.

In 1816 the first provincial gas lighting was laid in Preston, following a campaign led by the editor of the local paper and a Roman Catholic priest, Samuel Clegg loaned the services of his assistant, John Grafton, and on February 20 the main streets, a

church and a spinning factory were all illuminated.

Liverpool set up its own company the same year, while in London the City of London Gas Light company was formed.

As early as 1806 the Manchester police commissioners had experimented with gas, getting Clegg to fit a lamp over the entrance to the police offices in King Street. Eleven years later the commissioners called a public meeting about establishing gas to light all Manchester's police stations and the principal streets.

The plan went ahead. London companies were allocated their own territory. Parliament was not altogether pleased with the burgeoning growth of the gas industry, and was particularly worried about the wide powers and lack of obligations of the companies providing the service. Three years later gas companies were also compelled to supply any customer within 25 yards of a gas main.

All over Britain companies were merging, while others were springing up. By 1875 there were 66 corporation gas works in addition to many more privately-owned installations.

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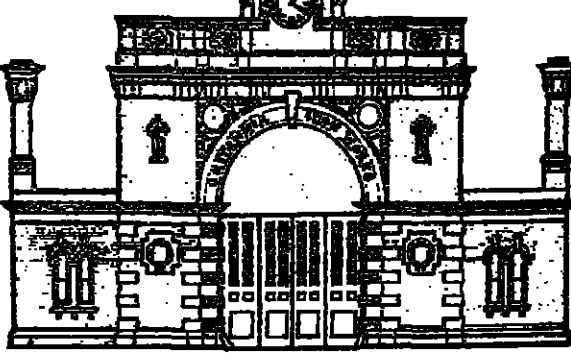
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When women were wooed to cook by gas

When Frederick Winsor used a primitive gas stove to boil a kettle on stage in 1804, most of his audience thought it was a trick. His thick German accent added to the impression of unreality, while his manner was that of a fairground illusionist rather than a scientific innovator.

But much more sober-souled entrepreneurs were just as unsuccessful at selling the new concept.

The public proved to be particularly stubborn about gas cooking. People believed it was far more expensive than their beloved coal-fired ranges, and worse, that it tainted the food with its distinctive smell. It was to be at least 60 years before more than an adventurous handful were to prove willing to try the new cookers, and not until the next century did the lingering prejudices finally melt away.

From the earliest days of the century, the sellers of gas also tended to be the sellers of appliances — a situation which continues to this day. Naturally, the gas company bosses were determined to capitalize on every possible use of their fuel. But James Sharp, manager of Southampton Gas Company, was probably a little ahead of his time when he started to offer gas cookers for sale.

It was an uphill business, and 14 years later he was publicly demonstrating how to cook dinner for 120 people on one of his products to show its versatility. At around the same time, a Devonport businessman was offering gas cookers and

heaters for hire without much success.

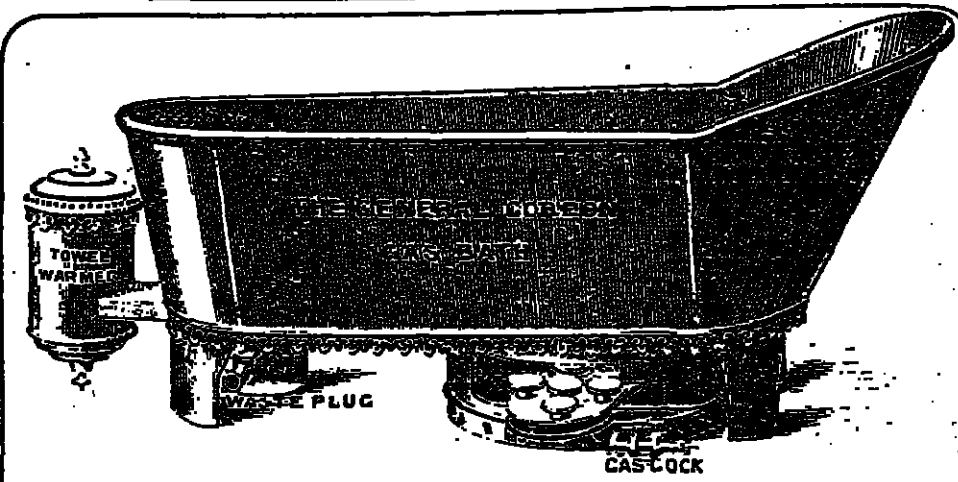
There were many other demonstrations in the 1850s which attracted some curiosity, but little enthusiasm.

In 1855, the German, Robert Bunsen, invented an aerated burner which made cooking by gas much cheaper. Cooker manufacturers hoped this would lead to a breakthrough in attitudes and filed a long list of patents incorporating the new burners.

But the public were basically happy with existing cooking methods and were much more receptive to the possibilities of gas-heated hot water. In the early 1870s geysers and gas baths became available. Henry Wilson's radiant gas fire won an exhibition prize in Birmingham and was to prove a great commercial success. Gas cookers were winning prizes, were featured at major exhibitions and could be hired from several gas companies.

At the end of the 1880s, the coin-in-the-slot meters arrived. Many more people were persuaded to allow gas pipes into their homes.

Potterton's boilers, which circulated hot water throughout buildings and were a precursor



Gas water heating in an early form
The "General Gordon" Gas Bath.

of central heating, became available from 1904.

Despite these promising new uses for gas, the fragmented industry had never concentrated on selling gas as a fuel. The assumption was that the public would want it because it was there. But it was now obvious that the days of gas as a lighting medium were numbered and that some active promotional efforts were needed.

In 1912 the British Commercial Gas Association was formed. Its brief was to use advertising to educate the public into the advantages of gas as a fuel and for cooking. It also instituted a scheme for gas salesmen.

The war intervened, but when it finished gas appliance technology strode forward. A Government order that gas companies should standardize the calorific value of the fuel meant that any new gas appliance could now be used anywhere in the country. This

facilitated mass production and a lowering of prices. The oven thermostat, invented in 1923, gave gas a positive advantage over the range. Gas fridges, washing machines and irons appeared on the scene.

By the end of the 1920s the three cwt cast iron cooker was being replaced by the lighter, more attractive looking enamel models. Customers who hired their cooking appliances tended to lose out as gas companies were not always willing or able to keep up with technological advances.

Commission (1979/80) proved highly critical of the way British Gas handled the retailing side.

While it has always been possible to buy appliances outside gas showrooms, the commission found that a considerable "monopoly of scale" existed. It recommended that British Gas should do one of the following: stop retailing altogether; transfer retailing to a "distinct body"; or publish separate accounts for appliance retailing, installation and contracting.

The third option, which was

voluntarily adopted by British Gas, was intended to answer accusations from other manufacturers that it was secretly subsidizing its retail operation.

At the time, the National Gas Consumers' Council commented: "British Gas appeared to have restricted the range and choice of appliances through pressure put on manufacturers, to ensure that certain of their products were only available through British Gas showrooms."

But the council did not want British Gas to opt out of retailing as this would disrupt the market without benefiting consumers. What it wanted, and what it actually got, was more competition from other retailers.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report was never acted upon by the Government. But in the past five years retailers have shown much greater confidence in stocking gas products.

This is partly because a flood of cheap foreign imports has meant that the commercial sector has been able to undercut British Gas.

British manufacturers now feel more free to supply other retailers while keeping gas showrooms as clients.

As the British Gas latest annual report showed, retailing is still regarded as a success story and it will be continued after privatisation.

The annual report also showed a 2.7 per cent increase in customer service workload, but said that in both servicing and appliance sales, British Gas facing stiff competition from the commercial sector.

Nevertheless, the turnover in appliance sales for 1984/5 was £237 million, compared with £204 million in 1980/81 and £106 million in 1975/6. The profit element was £13.8 million compared with £10 million

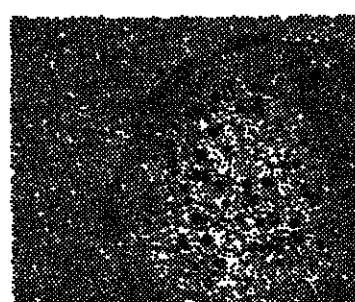
British Gas is fighting appliance competition by placing great emphasis on the stringent safety standards to which all its products must adhere.

John Hosker, the council's director, said he welcomed the stimulus of the competition, but believed that some cookers offered by other retailers did not come up to British safety standards.

AK

Stanton Pipes

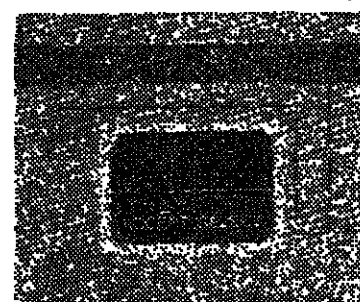
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مكتبة من الكتب

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fleet St sales tie up Reuters' loose ends

Yesterday's placing of 37 million of B shares in Reuters clearly an important and reassuring move for the financial information group's shareholders. It clears away the threat of a disorganised Fleet Street sell-off when the orderly marketing agreement reached for the flotation in June last year runs out in January.

Given the current problems of newspaper groups on the path to new production methods and printing works, however, attention is bound to focus first on the sellers and their motives. Of these, the most controversial, if unsurprising, is United Newspapers' sale of 10 million of its 27 million shares to raise £31 million.

Nearly all three shares must have come from Fleet Holdings United's chairman, David Stevens, has been obliged to dig into the assets in a way that was definitely not in his plans.

The change of plan is clearly as result of Lord Matthews' stout defence of Fleet which pushed up the asking price. City underwriters were not keen on more United shares yet so the company had to meet the additional bill.

Pearson and Reed International have logically sold out altogether. Pearson does not like minor stakes in other companies and Reed's holding is just the rump of its Reuters interests, most of which went to Robert Maxwell along with Mirror Group Newspapers.

The Daily Telegraph and the Guardian group had long earmarked Reuters as a second home to finance development and/or redundancies and pay restructuring, so the sales should not be seen as panic measures. Mr Maxwell has restricted his sale to a third of his holding.

The placing predates the end of the orderly marketing agreement through a clause that allows sales with the agreement of S. G. Warburg and N. M. Rothschild, the original issuing banks. From Reuters' point of view this makes sense, ending the uncertainty early and allowing a placing of 11 per cent of its B shares in a sudden yet smooth fashion. No limit was placed on sales and all the big newspaper group were invited to join the common placing if they had short-term sales in mind, so it effectively shakes out the loose holders. That makes the decisions of Associated Newspapers and Rupert Murdoch's News Group not to take part all the more confident.

If that was negative good news for Reuters, there were also positive developments. In particular, Reuters has effectively cleared up the mystery surrounding the effective scaling down of the interest it will acquire in Instinet, the US electronic equity dealing network, to cement its worldwide relationship.

The original deal gave Reuters shares and warrants that, if exercised, would give it 16 per cent of Instinet. But there were other negotiations on the boil and now Reuters has bought more warrants from Merrill Lynch and two other American brokers, all substantial Instinet shareholders.

The extra 900,000 warrants could bring Reuters' stake up to a hefty 25.7 per cent. Reuters paid a further \$4.5 million for this privilege on top of the original \$10.9 million deal, but the new warrants are exercisable at a slightly more modest \$20 each, giving Reuters an extraordinarily flexible position, combining its usual daring and caution.

Privateers go into contortion

The campaign to sell the Government's remaining 22.7 per cent shareholding in Cable and Wireless began in earnest yesterday with the publication of buoyant half-year results and a pathfinder prospectus.

Schroders, merchant bank to the issue, also announced details of a novel approach to the old privatization problem of how to avoid a flop without damaging the Government's aim of wider share-ownership.

Lazard Brothers was so cautious when

selling off the Government's remaining shareholding in Britoil last August that the public at large barely got a look in. Most of the issue was pre-placed with institutions in Britain and abroad and when the level of retail demand proved much stronger than anticipated, it could not be satisfied.

Schroders has come up with a scheme which though not perfect, allows flexibility for deciding how much should go to "Joe Public" and how much to the institutions, after the level of demand is known.

Only a third of the issue is being guaranteed to the underwriting institutions, in contrast to both the British Telecom and British Aerospace issues, when it was nearer 50 per cent.

The remaining two-thirds of the issue can be called back from the underwriters according to the level of demand from the public at large. If the offer is significantly oversubscribed (i.e. four to five times), then the public will get the full two-thirds allotment. If demand does not prove as high as that, the institutions will get more than a third of the issue.

All these contortions are necessary mainly because Schroders find it impossible to judge at this stage how the public will respond.

Including the rights issue, around £1 billion-worth of Cable and Wireless stock will be coming onto the market making it the second largest issue ever after British Telecom.

A recent survey found that few people understood what Cable and Wireless did though there was greater appreciation of its British subsidiary, Mercury Communications.

Meanwhile, the group's prospects have never looked rosier. The Chairman, Sir Eric Sharp, described the future as "pregnant with possibilities".

That, combined with news of a better-than-expected increase of 25 per cent in half-year profits to £136 million and the promise of a 22 per cent rise in dividends this year, helped to add 10p to the company's share price and £10 million to the value of the Government's stake.

Naught for the City's comfort

This afternoon a platoon of the City's biggest guns will fire off their views on the big bang. Although they will be speaking under the auspices of a conference on computers in the City, they will be talking of matters more macro than micro-chip. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, is unlikely to get bogged down in the nitty gritty of the relative merits of SEAO and Instinet as he speaks on the theme of "London in the International Marketplace".

Sir Martin Jacoby, deputy chairman of the Securities and Investment Board, should have plenty to say on "The new securities houses - benefits and conflicts". But anyone going to this afternoon's session in the hope of a reassuring chat about the future should think again. The top brass in the City have no illusions about the problems that lie ahead as the big bang moves towards explosion time. Another of this afternoon's speakers, George Hayter, will be voicing his fears that Stock Exchange member firms are being unduly extravagant as they try and equip themselves with the people and the property of the future. "I wonder whether they have considered the fixed overheads they are building up for themselves," he asks. As the Stock Exchange divisional director of information services, he is concerned that firms should be keeping some resources to enable them to adapt in fast-moving times.

And, without getting bogged down in computer jargon, Mr Hayter gives a warning that trading in equities and gilts will inevitably drift away from the floor of the exchange. "We are encouraging market makers to think in terms of a three-year life for their investment in the trading floor," he says. Others might not give it so long.

CBI split over timing and size of interest rate cuts

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday intensified its pressure on the Government to make a large cut in interest rates of up to 4 per cent within the next few months.

Delegates at the CBI annual conference in Harrogate, north Yorkshire, overwhelmingly supported a resolution urging the Government to make cuts, but there was a surprising split over the timing and size of interest rate reductions.

Those advocating caution were led by two bankers, Mr John Quinton, deputy chairman of Barclays Bank who wanted a "more gradual" reduction, and Lord Caldecote, chairman of CBI.

Sir James Cleave, the president, said at a press conference later that with inflation expected to be down to 3.5 per cent next year, nominal interest rates - presently 11.5



John Quinton: "let us not be too strident"

per cent - should be cut to 6 to 7 per cent in a year's time.

He said: "We need to see rates no more than 2.5 per cent above inflation." Without that the 4 per cent growth in the economy for which the CBI wants credit, could not be achieved.

Sir James and Sir Terence

Beckett, the director general, plan to seek a meeting with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to press home the views of the conference, although in the past few months relations between Mr Lawson and the CBI have soured.

Sir James said: "He cannot do this overnight, but I do not expect to have to wait until this time next year."

Interest rates were 2 to 3 per cent above Britain's main competitors, he said. "It is only when you do the sums that you realize how far out of line we are."

Mr Quinton said: "Ideally what we should see is a steady but sustainable drop in rates. Let us not be too strident in our demands, but try to reinforce the policies we favour by our own efforts in keeping wage increases down."

"I expect to see rates moving down slowly during the next few months, and this will mark

success for the Chancellor who is trying to steer between excessive wage increases on the one hand and a possible collapse in the price of oil on the other."

He added that if sterling fell again, as it might well do if interest levels were brought down sharply, it put the fall in inflation in jeopardy.

Lord Caldecote, who helped to draft the original motion, which complained that high real interest rates were damaging industry by discouraging investment and pushing up the value of sterling to the detriment of exports, said that before asking for government action industry should put its own house in order.

In his closing speech to the conference, Sir James said business was seeking to ensure that government did not "Get in our way, but rather work with us to clear the course."

Conference report, page 29

Timothy Aitken resigns

By William Kay
City Editor

Mr Timothy Aitken resigned yesterday as chief executive of Aitken Hume International, the investment and banking group which he ran in tandem with his cousin, Mr Jonathan Aitken.

Mr Timothy Aitken had three-year contract and stands to collect compensation of up to £300,000.

Mr Jonathan Aitken, who is to become joint chief executive with Mr Michael Scorey, said: "This was an amicable and graceful departure. It was agreed that Aitken Hume was entering a new phase and a more establishment type of management was needed."

The announcement, however, coincided with the news that in the six months to September profits from British fund management fell from £370,000 to £26,000. US fund management profits fell from £2.5 million to £1.8 million, and group banking profits were down from £499,000 to £448,000.

The directors are also making a provision of £1 million against what they call "diminution in value of certain of the group's strategic investments, and particularly against the value of its Canadian affiliate, HCI Holdings". HCI is up for sale.

There have also been problems in the group's property division. Mr John Kidd, the director responsible, has also resigned, Mr Stuart Graham, former chief executive of Midland Bank, is to head Aitken Hume's banking operation.

Trading since September has been "significantly better," the company added.

In February this year, Aitken was in talks with Fleet Holdings, aimed at forming "a mutually beneficial association", but this was called off under pressure from leading Fleet shareholders.

Mr Timothy Aitken will continue to be chairman of TV-am.



Timothy Aitken: may receive up to £300,000

MPs call for delay on joining EMS

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee yesterday came out against early British entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The MPs' conclusion runs counter to the tide of opinion, notably from businessmen, in favour of EMS entry.

The committee's report concluded: "While not ruling out eventual British participation in the long term, we consider that the difficulties of securing an appropriate valuation for sterling and the need to keep options open to pursue domestic policies in the national interest lead us to recommend the maintenance of the status quo in the short to medium term."

The recommendation, passed on a five to four vote, was preferred to one which would have come out in favour of entry in principle, but with flexibility on timing. No committee member favoured immediate entry at present exchange rates.

Mr Terence Higgins, the committee chairman, said that the conclusion broadly reflected the view of the Commons on EMS membership.

The three Labour members, Mr Austin Mitchell, Mr Brian Sedgmore and Mr Mark Fisher,

made it clear at a press conference later that in approving the committee's recommendation, they were rejecting the principle of EMS membership.

Evidence presented to the committee suggests that the pound is between 5 and 20 per cent overvalued against the mark.

EMS entry was also rejected yesterday by Professor Patrick Minford, the monetarist economist from the University of Liverpool. At a lunchtime lecture organized by the Centre for Economic Policy Research, Professor Minford said that the EMS was a flawed system and that entry would be disastrous for Britain.

The EMS had done nothing to reduce currency or interest rate volatility, Professor Minford said, arguing that the Treasury should stick with a system of controlling narrow money, M0, and responding only to sharp changes in the exchange rate.

Volatility continued in the foreign exchange markets yesterday. The pound gained nearly a cent to \$1.4355 against the dollar, which declined below DM2.60 against the mark. Last night in New York, the pound was trading at \$1.4340.

Leading article, page 15

New action by TSB depositors

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The Government's residual hopes of keeping to the original February date for the flotation of the Trustee Savings Bank were dashed yesterday when the House of Commons at Edinburgh said that February 11 was the earliest date it could hear an appeal.

The Government announced yesterday that it had lodged an appeal against last week's court ruling that TSB Scotland's depositors owned the bank's assets.

Further legal complications emerged with the announcement by a group of depositors in TSB England & Wales that they were beginning proceedings against the Government in the English courts.

Dr John Vincent, Mrs Grace Vincent and Mr Richard Levitt - Methodists from Sheffield - plan to bring an action in the next two or three weeks similar to the one in Scotland.

Groups of depositors in Birmingham and Gloucestershire are also believed to be considering court cases after the Scottish ruling. A case in the English courts could further delay the flotation.

The Government was hoping last week to have its Scottish appeal heard before Christmas.

IN BRIEF

Clay backs St Ives bid

St Ives Group, the magazine and book printer, yesterday made a £18.6 million bid for Richard Clay, Britain's leading book printer.

Richard Clay's share price leapt from 165p to 210p on the announcement, matching St Ives' terms of 44 new ordinary shares for every 100 Richard Clay shares. There is cash alternative of 190p per share. The bid has the backing of the Richard Clay board.

St Ives' shares stood at 478p after yesterday's bid which comes at a time when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is investigating a £12.4 million bid for Richard Clay by McCordale, the specialist and security printer. The Office of Fair Trading confirmed last night that the bid would not come within the merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Public Streets

Chetwynd Streets yesterday became the latest advertising and public relations company to declare its intention of going public. The group will go for a full listing early next month, forecasting profits of more than £1 million for this year.

Heath advances

C E Heath, the insurance broker, made pretax profit of £16.1 million in the half year to September 30, a rise of nearly 18 per cent. The dividend was raised to 7p from 6p.

Temps, page 27

Samuelson Group, supplier of services to the film and television industries, is raising \$5.7 million in a one for four rights issue. The company announced pretax profits up 78 per cent at £2.16 million in the six months to September 30 on turnover ahead by 44 per cent.

Courtaulds rise

Courtaulds is to pay an interim dividend of 1.75p (1.4p), for the six months to September 30, after pretax profits increased from £54.3 million to £60.3 million.

Temps, page 27

Gloom on tin

The International Tin Council meets again today, amid deepening gloom about prospects for a solution to the crisis now in its fourth week.

US stance on steel limits threatens £1.75bn pact

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States is not prepared to meet British objections and negotiate further on steel trade with Europe, a position that may cause a recently concluded \$2.5 billion (£1.75 billion) agreement to fall apart as early as next week, Mr Clayton Yentzer, the American trade representative, said yesterday.

Mr Yentzer said in an interview with The Times that the US position on the four-year steel agreement is firm. The agreement does not cover semi-finished steel products from Europe, and the US intends to stick to its statement that these products will be restricted to 1.7 million tonnes annually.

Britain has objected strongly to the American position which would limit semi-finished products from Europe to 400,000 tonnes annually, a limit which threatens a new contract by the British Steel Corporation to supply 250,000 tonnes a year to the Tuscaloosa steel plant in Alabama.

Mr Yentzer announced the tough US position on steel even as diplomatic sources disclosed that Britain is hardening its position on the agreement which it has threatened to veto when the EEC's Council of Ministers meets next week.

The threat of a trade war, which would plunge steel mar-

kets into chaos, was stronger than it has been in years, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Mr Yentzer also disclosed that the US is conducting an internal policy review that could lead to a dramatic change in its relations with Japan by early next year.

As the top US trade official, he said it has fallen to his office to develop several policy options for the Administration to pursue if Japan does not open its markets to Western goods by early next year. So far, the Administration was not satisfied with the results.

"Despite the programme that was announced, Japan's imports are down so far in 1985 while exports are up dramatically," he said.

The internal policy review has been confined so far to the staff of his cabinet-level office but he intended soon to have a report ready to be distributed to other cabinet offices.

The turning point in America's relations with Japan will come at the end of December when President Reagan has set a crucial deadline for resolution of some outstanding trade problems between the two nations.

Mr Yentzer said he understood Prime Minister Nakasone faced a difficult internal battle

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1095.5 (+12.5)
FT All Share	684.28 (+0.16)
FT Govt Securities	83.41 (+0.31)
FT-SE 100	1412.1 (+7.0)
Bargains	28.188
Dataseam USM	107.93 (-0.71)
New York	
Dow Jones	1443.45 (+3.44)
Nikkei Dow	12807.27 (-93.04)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1754.68 (+10.48)
Amsterdam	235.5 (-1.2)
Sydney: AO	984.1 (-12.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1742.7 (+34.3)
Brussels	
General	919.05 (-7.54)
Paris: CAC	235.2 (+1.1)
Zurich:	
SKA General	461.30 (+6.60)

GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$324.10m - \$324.35	
close \$324.25 - \$324.75 - \$3228.00 - 226.50	
New York:	
Comex (Latest) \$324.45	

CURRENCIES

London:	
£ \$1.4355 (+0.0095)	
£ DM 3.7258 (unchanged)	
£ SFR 3.0630 (-0.0007)	
£ FF 11.3558 (+0.0013)	
£ Yen 291.00 (+0.92)	
£ Index: 78.8 (+0.2)	
New York:	
£ \$1.4340	
£ DM 3.6000	
£ Index: 126.9 (-0.3)	
ECU ED 592.435	
SDR ED 755.747	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 11 1/2 %	
3-month interbank 11 1/4 - 11 1/2 %	
3-month eligible bills	
buying rate 11 1/4 - 11 1/2 %	
US:	
Prime Rate 9.50 %	
Federal Funds 7 1/4 %	
3-month Treasury	
1.77 - 1.75 %	
30-year bond price 106 1/4 - 106 1/4	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Cantors	175p +20p
Courtaulds	182p +19p
Bullough	214p +20p
Whittington Eng	113p +10p
Radio City "A" NV	23p +2p
Peters Stores	85p +9p
Carole Eng	263p +22p
Edmond Holdings	12p +1p
Hampton Gold	141p +11p
Humbly Elect	13p +1p
Automotive Prod	107p +8p
Abaco Invs	28.50p +2p
Lee Cooper	130p +9p
Oilfield Inspc	75p +5p
LRC Int	154p +10p
Carlson "A"	109p +7p
Prestwich Hlds	234p +14p
Bolton Textile	17p +1p
Blanchards	120p +7p
Premier Cons. Oil	35p +2p
Diploma	36p +15p
Trusthouse Forte	162p +8p
Steinberg Group	51p +5p
Reed Int	715p +34p
FALLS:	
Fargabrook	21p -7p
CML Microsystems	135p -30p
Star Computer	35p -5p
Benlon Hds	21p -3p
Morris Fine Art	22p -25p

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Oppenheimer UK	+44.6%	6th

*figures are offer to bid with net income reinvested 1.11.84 - 1.11.85. Source 'Planned Savings'.

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WALL STREET

Early gain for shares

New York (Agencies) - The stock market held most of its early gain at midmorning yesterday, aided by a strong bond market.

The Dow Jones industrial average, up seven points in the first 30 minutes was up 4.02 points to 1,444.04. Advances led declines by a two-to-one margin on a turnover of 34.98 million shares. The stock market had closed mixed on contracting volume on Monday but on Dow Jones average had edged up to a new record.

Mr Thomas Ryan Jr. of Kidder Peabody said the fixed-income market's strong performance had helped to curb aggressive selling.

He added that the market tone and psychology remained constructive.

"Until we get some pronounced weakness in the fixed-income market, the stock market should continue to hold up," he said.

Mr George Pirrone of Dreyfus Corp cited strength in the auto issues and in IBM as positive factors.

IBM led the actives, up 1/4 to 138 1/2. Hewlett Packard, which reported fourth quarter net profits down to 50 cts per share from 65 cts, was up 1/4 to 34 1/2. National Semiconductor was up 1/2 to 48.

Allied-Signal was up 1/4 to 48.

Metals remained deeply depressed yesterday as the tin crisis dragged on. Volumes across the LME were poor and even precious metals seem to have caught the malaise.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Dec	128.5-21.5
Jan	128.5-21.5
Feb	128.5-21.5
Mar	128.5-21.5
Apr	128.5-21.5
May	128.5-21.5
Jun	128.5-21.5
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SOYABEAN

Dec	128.5-21.5
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Mar	128.5-21.5
Apr	128.5-21.5
May	128.5-21.5
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Nov	128.5-21.5

GAS OIL

Dec	128.5-21.5
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COFFEE

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COFFEE

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COMMODITIES

SOYABEAN

Dec	128.5-21.5
Jan	128.5-21.5
Feb	128.5-21.5
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GAS OIL

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COFFEE

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Aug	128.5-21.5
Sep	128.5-21.5
Oct	128.5-21.5
Nov	128.5-21.5

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
London	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Frankfurt	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Paris	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Geneva	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Zurich	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
London	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Frankfurt	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Paris	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Geneva	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450
Zurich	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Trust	100.00	1.20	1.10
Second Trust	100.00	1.15	1.05
Third Trust	100.00	1.10	1.00
Fourth Trust	100.00	1.05	0.95
Fifth Trust	100.00	1.00	0.90

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Trust	100.00	1.20	1.10
Second Trust	100.00	1.15	1.05
Third Trust	100.00	1.10	1.00
Fourth Trust	100.00	1.05	0.95
Fifth Trust	100.00	1.00	0.90

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Dec 85	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Jan 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Feb 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Mar 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Apr 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
May 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Jun 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Jul 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Aug 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Sep 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Oct 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50
Nov 86	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50	88.50

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate
3 month bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00
6 month bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00
12 month bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00
3 month T-bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00
6 month T-bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00
12 month T-bill	7 1/8	Gold	375.00

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Trust	100.00	1.20	1.10
Second Trust	100.00	1.15	1.05
Third Trust	100.00	1.10	1.00
Fourth Trust	100.00	1.05	0.95
Fifth Trust	100.00	1.00	0.90

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Trust	100.00	1.20	1.10
Second Trust	100.00	1.15	1.05
Third Trust	100.00	1.10	1.00
Fourth Trust	100.00	1.05	0.95
Fifth Trust	100.00	1.00	0.90

UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Trust Name	Assets	Income	Dividend
First Trust	100.00	1.20	1.10
Second Trust	100.00	1.15	1.05
Third Trust	100.00	1.10	1.00
Fourth Trust	100.00	1.05	0.95
Fifth Trust	100.00	1.00	0.90
Sixth Trust	100.00	0.95	0.85
Seventh Trust	100.00	0.90	0.80
Eighth Trust	100.00	0.85	0.75
Ninth Trust	100.00	0.80	0.70
Tenth Trust	100.00	0.75	0.65

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares race towards 1,100 after late buying spree

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Equities almost broke through 1,100 points last night. A late surge of buying, some from the United States, sent the FT 30 share index racing ahead 12.3 points to a peak of 1,095.3 points.

With government stocks up by as much as 4%, the market was ebullient. There was keen buying, with both large and small investors seeking stock.

Share price gains were often spectacular, with leading companies such as Reed International, Trusthouse Forte, Courtaulds and Guest Keen & Nettlefolds making heady progress.

The start of a series of meetings with institutions is probably behind the strength of the public relations company Addison Page, up 15p at 205p. The group has set its sights on acquiring a market research company and a bid looks likely within the next few weeks.

Spot the next takeover candidate was a favourite occupation. But although much of the trading appeared to be speculative, there was also evidence of solid investment buying.

The broad strength of the market was underlined by the FT-SE share index which covers 100 leading stocks. It closed at a new peak, up 7.0 points at 1,412.1 points.

Conditions were ideal for the £115 million placing of shares in Reuters Holdings, the financial and news services group, by Hoare Govett and Cazenove & Co, the brokers. The shares were placed at 312p. Reuters shares started at 330p and closed at 323p.

Courtaulds jumped 19p to 182p on its results and GKN improved 13p to 268p. THF attracted strong buying from one broker and, as the rumour that American Marriott Hotels was stake building again went round the market, the shares touched 162p, up 9p.

A spokesman for the Marriott Corporation in Washington said that they had been aware of the rumours linking them with Trusthouse Forte for the past couple of weeks.

"As far as we are concerned they are completely groundless," said the company.

Reed International enjoyed a burst of activity in afternoon trading to close at 715p for a rise on the day of 34p.

Mr Kenneth Morton, finance director, said he had no idea what was behind the rise. "We understand there has been some large activity in the market but I don't know the reason for it."

Reed has called together staff in its magazine division for a special announcement today. One theory was that some of the interests were likely to be hired off. Mr Robert Maxwell's name was being linked with the suggestion. But Mr Morton said: "There is no disposal planned."

Reed's windfall from the sale of shares in Reuters and a promising broker's circular were other explanations in the market, along with the inevitable prospects of a takeover bid.

At the present price Reed is valued at almost £900 million. Allied-Lyons, the food and drink group resisting the advances of Elders, the Australian group, rose 5p to 290p against the Elders' bid valuation of 255p.

Sir Derrick Holden Brown, Allied chairman, denied talk that the British group was building up a shareholding in Elders. It can, under Australian rules, establish no more than a 15 per cent shareholding through market purchases.

Shares of Technology for Business, the computer group, have not escaped the dramatic fall-out in high-technology shares and are now 98p, against a 100p flotation price in the summer of 1983. Yet the group could achieve profits of more than £600,000 in its present year, against £272,036 last year. T for B is trading well on most fronts, reaping rewards from its RAR computer takeover and making good headway in West Germany.

Matthew Brown, the Blackburn brewery, held at 542p. Bidder Scottish and Newcastle Breweries has in the past two days lifted its shareholding to just over 25 per cent. Hoare Govett has done the business.

Oils recovered early losses. British Petroleum ended at 593p, up 8p, ahead of tomorrow's figures. Walsley-Hughes, the heating and plumbing group, continued to respond to its American acquisition, advancing a further 13p to 523p. Automotive Products, which has clinched a Russian co-operation agreement, improved 8p to 107p.

Cable & Wireless firmed 5p to 640p on its profits and the appearance of a pathfinder prospectus for next month's share sale.

An institutional lunch arranged by Panmure Gordon, the broker, seems to have created an appetite for stock in Prestwich Holdings. The shares shot up 14p to 234p.

Supplying a range of budget priced video titles to Woolworth is proving to be a money spinner and a deal with another big high street name is thought to be in the cards. W. H. Smith is being mentioned. Half-year profits are likely to be as much as earnings for the whole of last year of £874,000, and the brokers are looking towards an outcome of at least £1.8 million for the full 12 months.

In stores, British Home Stores again attracted attention as dealers continued to sniff out the prospects of a takeover bid. The shares rose a further 10p to 358p to take their two day gain to 20p.

Barton Group was also firmer, rising 7p to 593p, with Habitat Mothercare - another name linked with British Home Stores - improving 4p at 524p. Woolworth was 2p better at 583p.

In foods, United Biscuits, considered a tasty morsel for the predatory attentions of Imperial Group, put on 7p at 216p. But elsewhere the sector

The shares touched 79p, up 18p, before closing at 76p.

Peters Stores, which runs a chain of 40 jeans and casual wear shops in the North-east, featured strongly in the sector with a 9p jump to 85p at one stage before coming back to 83p. The shares have risen from a low of 56p.

The business, which is in the firm grip of the family and board, chalked up a loss at the half-time stage and next week is likely to report that it has only just broken even for the full year.

Expect Hill Woolgar, the licensed dealer, to announce the acquisition of a stockbroker in the next few weeks. The broker is thought to have £300 million under management. It will be the first HW deal since Mr Stuart Goldsmith, formerly investment director of Britannia Arrow Holdings, became chief executive.

But the interest focuses on the value of the underlying assets. The potential has already been spotted by Welsh property developer Brian Brownhill who has taken a five per cent shareholding.

Peters Stores' broker Wise Speke says someone has been trying to buy stock - but it has no idea who might be behind the buying.

"We are not aware of any bid approaches," says the broker.

The market continued to show its disapproval at the interim results from Metal Box. The profits fall which cost the shares 22p on the announcement spread further despondency yesterday and dealers wiped another 10p off the price to leave them at 513p.

There was some buying of Dawson International before next week's half time announcement, with the shares rising 8p to 198p. Another textile group, Vantona, also came in for some support with the shares climbing 8p at 442p.

Trading was hectic on the London traded options market. More than 21,000 bargains were undertaken with Courtaulds attracting 8,188. Calls totalled 5,024 and puts 3,164. Other active counters included Beecham Group, British Telecom, GKN, Lonrho and the Stock Exchange index.

APPOINTMENTS

King & Shaxson: Mr J A Beard has been made a director of King & Shaxson and managing director of King & Shaxson Securities.

The Consultative Committee of Accounting Bodies: Mr Michael Kershall becomes vice-chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee.

Satellite Television: Sir James Crutcher has been made chairman and Mr Richard Searby, deputy chairman.

Department of Trade and Industry: Dr John Reay succeeds Mr Philip Cooper as director of the Warren Spring laboratory. Mr Eric Wright takes over from Mr Jeffrey Preston as director of the Yorkshire and Humberside regional office and Mr David Durrle succeeds Mr Sidney Treadgold as head of the shipbuilding policy division.

Westminster Press: Mr Frank Barlow becomes chief executive.

Computers: Computeraid and Computeraid Services: Mr Richard Atkins has been made group financial director.

John Brown Engineers & Constructors: the following have joined the board: in London, Mr D G Meowhouse (marketing); in Portsmouth, Mr B R Osborne (marketing), Mr R A Smith (operations), and Mr M J Stewart (technology and engineering).

Cannon Rubber: Mr Roy Marsh becomes non-executive chairman.

Johnson Group: Mr John Mason has been made managing director of Johnson Group Cleaners properties.

Hunter Saphire Mr Michael Cannon will join as managing director of Hunter Distribution on December 2.

Save & Prosper Group: Mr Paul Blagbrough has been appointed company secretary.

KBC Process Consultants: Mr David Baldock has become managing director.

BETEC: From January 1, Mr J. S. M. Jones succeeds Mr J. M. A. Paterson as chairman and Mr W. J. Dumbard becomes group managing director.

Hugo House Beauty Products: Mr Christopher Coxon has been appointed managing director.

The Stanley Works: Mr Richard Krug becomes vice-president of the hardware and industrial division and Mr Robert Widham becomes group vice-president of the hand tools division.

International Maritime Organization: Mr Chandrika Prasad Srivastava has been re-elected as secretary-general.

National Coal Board: Mr Stuart Oliver has become deputy director of public relations.

Atkins Research & Development: Mr Bruce Dean has joined the board.

TEMPUS

Courtaulds goes higher on its own terms

The stock market mystery of conglomerates is like the Triangle Inequality - is the sum of the parts worth more than the market value of the whole business? Ratings hang on such abstruse calculations and tie was when the sums could only be worked with an unacceptable level of statistical haziness.

The new-found flexibility of capital markets has altered this situation, and phenomena like management buyouts, and the independent flotation of subsidiary divisions enable the market to gauge far more accurately the residual value of industrial holding companies.

Interim results from Courtaulds, which came in about £7 million higher than analysts' hopes at £60.3 million add a new twist to the perennial ratings saga.

Good though the figures are, there is nothing in the divisional breakdown which looks spectacularly attractive. There are gainers and losers. Fibres has done well, profits coming in at £18½ million, £5 million higher than last year's comparable figure. Yet the new Spanish acquisition chipped in a helpful £3 million.

Textiles have done well, generating a rise of profits of about £5 million. Sadly however, much fancied operations like woodpulp and packaging have lagged, in some cases substantially. The group's market capitalization is just under £700 million. It is hardly likely that the sum of the parts would equal that figure.

Nevertheless, the share price action yesterday and its relationship with the recent chart formation were spectacular. The shares rose about 20p to 180p. This took the shares into new high ground, and decisively shattered previous resistance points at 160p.

Conceptually, the shares can still travel by a further 50p or so before looking fairly valued. Even at 230p, Courtaulds would be valued at about eight times prospective earnings, or no more than the rating it used to attract as a pure textile company.

For portfolio managers, this prospect can only offer satisfaction. Analysts, however, seek more positive reasons for the market's change of mood. The answer seems to be that Courtaulds is now being treated as a pure and highly successful management operation, rather than a collection of fast moving bits.

This interpretation, if valid, must offer the Courtaulds management team, under Sir Christopher Hogg, considerable satisfaction. It suggests institutions are content to see the team work hard to get the operating ratios into line with international standards, rather than insisting on a huge eye-catching acquisition to generate growth.

Supported by a sound balance sheet, LIG is in line to make around £25 million in the full year. All the indications point to the group growing rapidly and the shares, up 10p at 154p, should be bought.

C E Heath

C E Heath's interim pretax profits of £16.1 million disappointed the market and the shares dropped 18p to 683p for a two-day fall of 33p.

Estimates for full-year profits have now been pared back to between £32 million and £33 million from some recent estimates as high as £40 million. The outlook for the following year is not much more exciting and figures of £35 million are being pencilled in.

The main problems are currency fluctuations and the well-publicized loss of workers' compensation insurance business in Victoria, Australia.

The worst currency effect in the first half came from the Australian underwriting business, which dropped £1.5 million against the previous first half, due to the fall of the Australian dollar. In local terms, profits were 10 per cent higher. The adverse impact will deteriorate further this half as the Australian dollar has weakened further.

Heath's expectation of its loss next year from the nationalization of workers' compensation in Victoria remains at A\$8 million (£3.8 million) pretax. The company is putting a brave face on its loss and announced that it had won the tender for the claims administration service put out by the Victorian State Commissioner.

The outlook for this half is clouded not just by the Australian dollar but by the fall of the US dollar, which will again have a far greater impact than in the first half.

Even so, Pinnacle Reinsurance in Bermuda managed to make 60 per cent gains in the first half in sterling terms.

There were also no exceptional bad debt provisions in the first half, although they are commonplace in the industry, raising worries that they may materialize in the full year.

All told, some other insurance brokers in the sector look a better bet for the moment.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc.

STRONG PROFIT GROWTH CONTINUES

● Beer trading good ● Hotels particularly strong ● Margins further improved

Operating Profit up 19%
Earnings Per Share up 15%
Pre-Tax Profit up 15%

	Unaudited half year 27.10.85 £m	Unaudited half year 28.10.84 £m
Turnover	393.3	354.2
Operating Profit	49.5	41.5
Pre-Tax Profit	43.1	37.3
Earnings Per Share	10.0p	8.7p
Dividend Per Share	2.19p	1.90p

Interim Dividend up 15% ● Forecast Final Dividend up 15%

For a copy of the full Interim Report, please contact: The Secretary, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc, Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8YS. Telephone: 031-556 2591.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	DRAPERY AND STORES				
2	Clutton's	480	+10	12.5	2.6
3	Hepworth (J)	100	+5	10.0	10.0
4	Dunlop	250	+10	10.0	4.0
5	Owen Owen	100	+5	10.0	10.0
6	Habitat 66	100	+5	10.0	10.0
7	Woolworth	100	+5	10.0	10.0
8	Stannard	100	+5	10.0	10.0
9	Peters Stores	100	+5	10.0	10.0
10	Burns	100	+5	10.0	10.0
11	Constr (Furn) A	100	+5	10.0	10.0
12	INDUSTRIALS A-D				
13	Clark (Clement)	100	+5	10.0	10.0
14	Bechem	100	+5	10.0	10.0
15	Davy	100	+5	10.0	10.0
16	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
17	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
18	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
19	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
20	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
21	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
22	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
23	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
24	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
25	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
26	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
27	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
28	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
29	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
30	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
31	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
32	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
33	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
34	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
35	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
36	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
37	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
38	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
39	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0
40	Brinsford	100	+5	10.0	10.0

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDEX-UNITED						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend
1	100	100	100	100	100	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities strong again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 11. Dealings End, Nov 22. Contango Day, Nov 25. Settlement Day, Dec 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING AND ROADS							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE AND LAND							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FOODS							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

CINEMAS AND TV							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY AND STORES							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS AND CATERERS							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS E-K							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS L-R							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
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1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
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E-K							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
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FINANCE AND LAND							
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
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CINEMAS AND TV							
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DRAPERY AND STORES							
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HOTELS AND CATERERS							
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INDUSTRIALS E-K							
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INDUSTRIALS L-R							
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CINEMAS AND TV							
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DRAPERY AND STORES							
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INDUSTRIALS L-R							
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1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield %
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FINANCE AND LAND							
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
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CINEMAS AND TV							
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DRAPERY AND STORES							
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INDUSTRIALS A-D							
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HOTELS AND CATERERS							
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INDUSTRIALS L-R							
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FINANCE AND LAND							
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FOODS							
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CBI CONFERENCE

Warning on costs

Infrastructure

Exports plea

Call to Lawson for action to reduce interest rates

Reports by Alan Wood, Stephen Goodwin and Amanda Haigh

An appeal to the Government for lower interest rates was carried by a substantial majority, although Mr John Quinlan, deputy chairman of Barclays Bank, gave a warning to delegates not to throw away the gains made in controlling inflation.

Mr Quinlan told delegates that he expected to see interest rates moving down slowly during the next few months.

"This will mark success for the Chancellor, who is trying to steer between excessive wage increases on the one hand and a possible collapse in the price of oil on the other."

He said the banks agreed that interest rates were too high for the health of industry and British exports, but he urged caution. "The Chancellor is not keeping rates up out of perversity. He is in a tight box and getting out of it means taking some risks. The greatest risk is of inflation rising once again."

"Are our memories so short that we have forgotten already how loudly we complained against inflation only three or four years ago?"

Mr Quinlan said that he supported a more gradual reduction in interest rates, backed by restraint in wage increases so that all the gains made in controlling inflation were not thrown away by an over-relaxation of monetary control.

In spite of his warning, Mr Quinlan supported a motion expressing concern that high interest rates were discouraging investment and putting up the value of sterling to the detriment of exports. It urged the Government to lower interest rates.

Sir Kenneth Durheim, chairman of Unilever, moving the motion, said that he recognized members of the Cabinet were right to castigate industry on wages, but that did not absolve the Government from their responsibilities on interest rate levels.

Real interest rates were about 6 per cent in Britain, which was significantly above those of its competitors - West Germany at 2.5 per cent, and Japan at 4 per cent. Every 1 per cent differential in interest rates was an additional cost to business of £250 million a year.

"We have some control over wage rates and we must act. The Government has some control over interest rates and they must act," Sir Kenneth said.

Mrs Rowena Mills of Rowena Mills Associates, said that it was not enough for a commercially naive government to tell business that the only effective weapon against inflation was high interest rates.

If they did not teach that to ministers, and perhaps bankers, then small companies would close, and the loss of employment would in no way whatsoever be made up by growth in the service industries.

Viscount Caldecote, Investors in Industry Group, said that he did not believe the CBI should go on pressing the Government to lower interest rates until industry had put its own house in order.

Mr David Wigglesworth, group chief executive of Bencor Corporation, said that the CBI was not seeking confrontation with government. "No one wishes to see CBI leaders in unproductive argument with Mr Lawson."

"But it is the CBI's job to speak to the British industry does need to be free of unnecessary cost burdens. It does need to be able to compete on a comparable basis with foreign competitors."

He said that a minimum cut of 2 per cent in UK interest rates would do no more than put the country level with the highest rate in its principal competitor nations.



Sir Terence Beckett (right), director general of the CBI, applauding Sir James Clesminson after his speech

Facing both ways on spending

Infrastructure spending should be increased immediately. This decision by conference had considerable backing but delegates proceeded to throw out the proposition that this spending should take place, even if it meant an increase in total government spending.

The majority view was clearly that this course would be inadvisable.

The state of the country's roads attracted most criticism in the debate although Mr James Miller, of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, pointed out that the same applied to water mains and sewers, and the area of derelict land was spreading.

In an amusing speech calling for more spending on the infrastructure, Mr Bill Kelson, chairman of Centrapak, and a member of the South-west regional council, called particularly for another motorway to the West Country - he comes from Somerset - and pointed out there was only one motorway into Wales, which went over "one lousy bridge".

He also said that Britain needed a Channel tunnel as much as it needed a hole in the head. There was perfectly

adequate infrastructure across the Channel yet there was perfectly inadequate infrastructure in the West Country.

As for present-day paraphernalia in getting bank loans, Mr Kelson told bankers that they were over-cautious and over-publicized. "If you do not have a little more bold no one else will," he said.

Mr John Turner, president of the Building Employers' Confederation, pointing to the massive backlog of work on housing, schools and hospitals, said that the stone wall was at the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Environment and the Minister for Health had only made the smallest cracks, after much hammering.

Government policies were simply not co-ordinated. Early last year the Department of



Mr Bill Kelson, who called for more spending

Environment was encouraging the take-up of home improvement grants. Then the Treasury suddenly imposed 15 per cent VAT on such work, a tax which stuck to individuals.

Rates plan 'dangerous'

By a large majority conference carried a resolution opposing the introduction of a uniform business rate (UBR). This was despite an appeal by Mr John Charnman, of ICI, chairman of the CBI's rating and valuation committee, that delegates should not rule out

the proposal before the Government's Green Paper was issued with the conditions that would attach to such a rate.

Mr Tony Weller of Weller Engineering considered UBR would be a dangerous tool in the hands of a government unsympathetic to business.

Timetable on pensions 'inadequate'

The time available for making the changes in pensions proposed by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, in his Green Paper was totally inadequate, delegates said in a debate on pensions.

A resolution welcoming the far-ranging review of social security benefits by Mr Fowler, but deploring the timetable for making such profound changes to long-term pension planning and, in particular, regretting the intended abolition, rather than modification, of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) was carried unanimously.

Mr Derek Bandy, of William M. Mercer - MPA Ltd, proposing the resolution, said there was still no White Paper when there was less than 18 months to the proposed implementation date of April, 1987.

"Let this conference tell the Secretary of State: Action, yes, but action to find a better way ahead, action to find a way that will meet the objectives we share with him," he said.

Industry warned to control labour costs

Sir James Clesminson, the president, yesterday gave a warning to industrialists against creating inflation through their own labour costs, while at the same time seeking lower interest rates.

In the closing speech to the confederation's conference in Harrogate, Sir James said that delegates accepted that government alone could not solve industry's problems.

"We must play our part. We rightly look to the Government to lower interest rates but we stretch credibility too far if we do not, at the same time, make sure that our own unit costs do not rise when those of our main competitors are falling."

"We must not ourselves create inflation when what we want is cost reduction."

Sir James said that he had no doubt consumer spending could be doubled by the year 2010. It required an annual growth in consumer spending of 2.75 per cent, which was not impossible by any means. Yet on its own this would be meaningless.

"To achieve our objective, it has to be combined with a rapid growth in productivity and even faster output growth, both of which must go together. We have to hit our target of an annual growth in gross domestic product approaching 4 per cent."

This, Sir James said, was thinking big. It was a challenge. CBI members would have to change their own mental attitudes as well as those of the country towards business and industry and its central role in Britain's future.

"Even if these figures do look higher than we can achieve, should we not aim high?" Sir James asked.

"We have a marathon to run to bring about a regeneration of Britain's economy. No marathon runner ever set out with the intention to run half the course."

"And although during the race he may well wish that someone would bring the finishing post a little nearer, he knows it does not happen."

More state support for export business urged

The CBI was sending a clear message to the Government to allow industry to compete on equal terms in world markets until such time as international negotiations successfully ended all forms of government intervention, Sir James Clesminson, the president, said at the end of a debate on support for exports.

The conference unanimously agreed a resolution from the CBI's overseas committee that many existing and new jobs depended on the export of capital and other goods as well as services, and calling on the Government to support this activity at least as effectively as other governments.

Sir Fred Warner, of Guinness Peat, and chairman of the overseas committee, moving the resolution, said: "We do not want any more cases of the Istanbul bridge, where we put in a splendid contract and, at the last moment it was snatched away from us."

These contracts were enormously valuable; one contract led to another and sub-contracts were spread among smaller firms. They were of overwhelming importance to employment in Britain.

The resolution was not asking for increased government interference or more government money to make bad British contracts acceptable. It was asking that good British contracts should not be turned down because another government bought that contract.

"We are asked as businesses to manage properly when we take on these contracts. Let the Government manage its own schemes properly," he said.

Mr Terry Steel, of the Boots Company, supporting the resolution, said that this must be the time for the Government to give much more help and encouragement to exporters, particularly help on the ground in overseas markets, to small and medium sized companies who did not have the resources to have their own organization overseas.

COMPANY NEWS

● **RANK ORGANISATION:** Leisure Holidays - part of the holidays and recreation division - has purchased the Weymouth Bay Caravan Park company, Chesil Beach, Dorset, and a 75-year lease on the Devon Cliffs caravan and chalet park, near Exmouth, Devon. It also plans to enlarge the Primrose Valley caravan park in Weymouth. Leisure Holidays will invest a further £2.5 million in new facilities and caravans throughout its other parks for 1986.

● **COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES:** The company is to buy the outstanding 25 per cent of its subsidiary, CFS Investment Management, for 615,000 new ordinary shares, credited at 118p each.

● **MANX AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS:** The company is to buy two Isle of Man companies, Waltons Television (Manx) and Waltons Finance, for £700,000. It is also proposing to raise about £750,000 by an underwritten rights issue.

● **JOHN MOWLEM:** The company is to make an agreed offer for Alfred Booth, Terns six ordinary shares in Mowlem, plus £9.46 in cash, for each £1 ordinary in Booth.

● **SNOWDON AND BRIDGE:** Henry Cooke, Lumsden is placing 1.75 million ordinary shares of 10p each at 97p per share in Snowdon and Bridge. It supplies wholesale distribution services to the catering trade. Pretax profits for the year to Jan 31 next are forecast at not less than £250,000. The directors intend to recommend a dividend of 1p a share for the year.

● **BSN:** A subsidiary of the BSN group, Panzoni-Milliet Freres, is acquiring a majority holding in Ponte, the Italian pasta processing company.

● **FIRST LEISURE CORPORATION:** The company has acquired control of Whitgate Taverns through the purchase of Whitgate's holding company, Turnstone, from its shareholders, Messrs T. W. Allen, D. Ferguson and C. Brierley. Whitgate operates a chain of steak restaurants in the Manchester area. First Leisure has also established a music publishing company, First Leisure Music, which will start operations next January.

● **PEARL ASSURANCE:** Pearl and General Reinsurance in the U.S. has purchased Monarch Insurance of Ohio from Pearl American Corporation, a subsidiary of Pearl. Monarch is licensed to transact property and casualty insurance.

● **BARLOW RAND:** Pretax profits rose from £797.3 million to £828.6 million (above £171) in the year to Sept 30. Turnover was up from £9.97 billion to £12.24 billion. Earnings per share dipped from 170.2 to 164.9 cents, but the total dividend is held at 70 cents.

● **COSALTI:** For the year to Sept 1, with figures in £000, turnover was 41,392 (£8,783), while pretax profit was 1,047 (£36). Earnings per share were 8.62p (£1.98p). A final dividend of 2p (0.5p) is being paid on Jan 22, making a total of 2.75p (0.75p).

● **REANOVER INVESTMENTS:** For the half-year to Aug 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,820 (£312), while the pretax profit was £91 (£22). Earnings per share were 4.67p (£0.02p). An interim dividend of 1.1p (0.1p) is being paid on Dec 20.

● **HAT GROUP:** For the half-year to Aug 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 108,250 (£1,750), while the pretax profit was 4,446 (£327). Earnings per share were 4.09p (£3.98p). An interim dividend of 1.9p (1.9p) is being paid on Feb 28.

● **DRG:** DRG has acquired Flowlock. As part consideration, DRG is issuing 281,108 shares. Flowlock, based in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, makes specialized profiled foam-fillers, distributed primarily to the roof and cladding industry.

● **WHITTINGTON ENGINEERING:** Terms have been agreed for the purchase of an investment property at a valuation of £325,000. The vendors, GMI Holdings, have agreed to take 342,105 new ordinary shares at 95p each as consideration.

The transaction, which will be subject to Whittington shareholders' approval, will give GMI a 23 per cent stake in Whittington.

● **LANCARS:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 1,757 (£1,586), while the pretax profit was £2 (£114). Earnings per share were 0.56p (£0.77p).

● **IVORY & SIMS:** For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,172 (£2,547), while the pretax profit was 1,324 (£1,063). Earnings per share were 3.15p (£2.52p) before amortization of goodwill and 2.64p (£2p) after. An interim dividend of 1p (0.1p) is being paid and the final will be not less than last year's total payment of 3.25p.

● **SCOTTISH CITIES INVESTMENT TRUST:** For the year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, pretax revenue was 1,394 (£758). Earnings per share were 26.9p (£5.4). A final dividend of 17p (10.5p) is being paid on Dec 18, making a total of 32p (£4.6).

● **N.M.C. INVESTMENTS:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 1,720 (£1,770), while the pretax profit was 73 (£65). Earnings per share were 0.74p (£0.55p).

● **LONDON & MIDLAND INDUSTRIALS:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 41,140 (£41,609), while the pretax profit was 4,022 (£3,723). Earnings per share were 9.7p (£8.2p). An interim dividend of 4.7p (£4.25p) is being paid on Feb 12.

● **CML MICROSYSTEMS:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 2,824 (£1,133), while the pretax profit was 678 (£701). Earnings per share were 4.5p (£4.5p).

● **HOWARD & WYNDHAM:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 11,049 (£1,049), while the trading loss was 94 (£94). Losses per share were 4.1p (£1.1p) loss.

● **OUR PRICE:** At the annual meeting, Mr Garry Nesbitt, the chairman, reported that, after five months of the current year, the results to date continue to be in line with expectations. Sales growth remains strong and the continuing programme of expansion is resulting in an ever-increasing share of the total market. The board expects a good level of sales throughout December, which is the peak trading period.

● **YOUNG AND CO'S BREWERY:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 19,612 (£17,896), while the pretax profit was 2,027 (£1,703). Earnings per share were 9.33p (£7.09p). An interim dividend of 3.3p (3p) is being paid on Dec 6.

Norway bans British oilrigs

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Norwegian Government has told Esso and Shell to halt drilling on two offshore oil wells inside the Arctic Circle because their rigs are considered unsuitable for the severe winter conditions.

This is a setback for the leading oil companies which had hoped that Norway would liberalize its rules on winter drilling.

Norway has a close season on drilling in its far northern waters from November 15 to February 1, but most leading companies have been planning to use "winterized" rigs to continue their expensive exploration programmes.

The two rigs involved - Shell has been using the semi-submersible Boregryp Dolphin and Esso the semi-submersible Zapata Upland - have been approved by the Norwegian Maritime Directorate and there is no dispute over their seaworthiness.

Norway, however, is concerned that there is insufficient weather protection for the drilling platform and several industry analysts see the move as a way of forcing rig owners to have expensive modifications made in Norwegian yards.

There have also been suggestions that the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) will demand that only fully winterized rigs built in Norwegian yards will be allowed to drill during the close season.

A spokesman for the NPD said that both companies had started drilling with unmodified rigs, but it was hoped that bans would not thwart government plans to encourage drilling in northern waters in winter.

Esso Norway has protested at the ban and has the right to appeal to the Norwegian government. Its drilling rig has been used for seven winters in the Canadian Arctic Circle and the Shell rig has been extensively modified in Norway for winter drilling at a cost of Nkr1 billion (£38,000).

In the British sector of the North Sea Britoil and Texaco have made a significant joint find 100 miles east of Shetland. Oil and natural gas has been found and a second well is now being tested with a third due for drilling early next year.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price		Closing Price
A.M.S. Industries 3p Ord (95)	106	Magnetic Materials 10p Ord (144)	102+3
Colson Com. 50p Ord (90)	108	Martin (Romak) 10p Ord (90)	97-1
Core Assets 7p Ord Pay Pd	108	Morse 10p Ord (675)	67-1
C.P.M. 3p Ord (122)	130	St. Ives Group 10p Ord (330)	478+8
Cowell 25p Ord (16)	130	Standard 2p Ord (175)	190
Devereaux 10p Ord (160)	130	T.M.D. Adm. 10p Ord (118)	123
Electric-Optics 3p Ord (95)	104-1	Underwoods 10p Ord (187)	200+2
Electronic Data Proc. 3p Ord (75)	104-1	World of Leisure 10p Ord (284)	166+15
Fairclough 10p Ord (132)	107		
Gibson Lyons 10p Ord (75)	63-1		
Hampton Hosiery 10p Ord (57)	63-1		
Leach 10p Ord (57)	64-1		
Levi City 10p Ord (190)	183-5		

Cable and Wireless INTERIM RESULTS

UNAUDITED RESULTS	6 months to 30 Sept 1985		Change	Year to 31 Mar 1985
	£m	£m	%	£m
TURNOVER	454	388	+17	862
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	136	109	+25	245
Estimated Tax	40	35		73
Minority interests	96	74		172
Extraordinary items	17	13		28
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	79	61	+30	142
EARNINGS per share	17.5p	13.5p	+30	31.9p
DIVIDENDS per share	3.5p	2.9p	+21	7.8p

"STEADY PROFIT GROWTH MAINTAINED."

The Directors of Cable and Wireless plc report the following unaudited results for the six months ended 30 September 1985.

The performance of Cable and Wireless since privatisation in November, 1981 reflects the Directors' success in pursuing their policy of profitable growth for the Group.

The profit before tax of £136m is an improvement of 25% over the £109m for 1984. The profit attributable to ordinary shareholders increased to £79m (1984 - £61m). Earnings per share increased by 30% from 13.5 pence to 17.5 pence.

Fluctuating exchange rates will always affect the results of overseas activities when they are expressed in sterling. During this six months sterling was weaker than for the corresponding period of 1984. Had it been unchanged the profit would have been some £5 million lower.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 3.5 pence per Ordinary Share (1984 - 2.9 pence) representing an increase of 21%. The dividend will be paid on 28 March 1986 to shareholders (other than HM

Government) on the Register on 28 February 1986. It will be paid at a later date to those persons who are registered after 28 February 1986 in respect of shares sold pursuant to the offers to be made in December of this year. The cost of the interim dividend is £17,774,000 (1984 - £13,050,000). The Directors expect to recommend a final dividend of 6.0 pence, making the total dividend for the year 9.5 pence (1985 - 7.8 pence) an increase of 22%.

The Directors believe that the long term prospects of Cable and Wireless are good because of the expected growth in the market, the improving technology available and the favourable strategic position of the Company.

The Directors view the future prospects of Cable and Wireless with great confidence.

Cable and Wireless
A WORLD LEADER
IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Cable and Wireless plc, Mercury House,
Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8EX.

Notice to members C&G Mortgage Rates

Existing Mortgages Completed after 1st January 1982

In accordance with the Mortgage Conditions, notice is given of the following Mortgage Base Rates effective from 31st December 1985.

C&G Base Rate 1: 12.65%
C&G Base Rate 2: 13.15%
C&G Base Rate 3: 12.90%

Differentials on existing Mortgages

We are pleased to confirm the withdrawal of the remaining 1/2% interest rate differential over Base Rates effective from 31st December 1985 for home purchase loans.

New Loans. No Differentials

These highly competitive C&G Base Rates will apply from 31st December 1985 to offers of loans already made and to all new applicants.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Chief Office: Cheltenham House, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3JR. Tel: 0242 36161.

40% fall in British jobs from foreign investment

By Teresa Poole

The number of jobs created or safeguarded by foreign investment in British manufacturing will be sharply down this year from last year's record level.

Last year foreign companies embarked on projects worth an estimated £3 billion and with an associated 45,500 jobs.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau expects both these figures to be 40 per cent lower for 1985. That would mean manufacturing investment of less than £2 billion and about 28,000 jobs.

In the first nine months of this year investment decisions by overseas companies created or safeguarded 18,500 jobs compared with 31,200 in the corresponding period.

The number of projects has remained virtually static, and is expected to hold up year on year. But the size and nature of investments has altered.

INWARD INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Number of projects	Associated employment
1979	183	14,300
1980	155	18,700
1981	133	18,400
1982	133	10,500
1983	236	30,800
1984	317	45,500
1985	212	18,500

Last year had the benefit of several large greenfield commitments, such as the Nissan car assembly plant at Tyne and Wear. This will provide 2,700 jobs in its first two phases. Many US companies also seemed to bring forward investment decisions to 1984 because of the strength of the dollar.

So far in 1985 the projects have been smaller, partly

because a company's size now being tempted to set up in Britain for the first time is smaller.

The most popular industries are still electronics, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and some advanced engineering. Despite the upsets in electronics this year, 50 foreign companies set up British ventures or expanded operations in the first nine months of 1985.

The north-east and south-east of England have increased their share of created jobs, but Scotland is still well ahead, accounting for 27 per cent of jobs from foreign investment and a fifth of the projects.

As well as bringing in jobs, foreign investment has influenced the introduction of stricter product quality control. Foreign companies have also insisted on a new style of industrial relations and have obtained single union deals

England poised to close a loophole

A loophole to prevent counties registering overseas cricketers purely because they have an EEC passport could be closed for next season.

The Test and County Cricket Board will consider on December 12 new legislation that would prevent a repetition of the case of Kevin Curran, an all-rounder from Zimbabwe, who was accepted for Gloucestershire in 1985 because he was able to obtain a Republic of Ireland passport through family ancestry without ever living in the country. Under Common Market law the TCCB must allow EEC citizens to play for counties.

The Board will consider only allowing the signing of players with passports from EEC countries providing they have undertaken a residential period for qualification. That is four years of 10 years depending on parents' citizenship.

The Board accept that no legislation could be retrospective to prevent Curran, who scored over 760 runs and took 61 wickets for Gloucestershire last summer, from playing for the county in 1986.

Derbyshire have been unable to find support for a recommendation that the TCCB revert to allowing each county two overseas players for the 1986 and 1987 seasons.

Consideration to the concept has already been given by the Board's cricket committee, the registration committee and the Cricketers' Association.

A campaign has been waged since 1978 gradually to limit counties to one import through expiry of contracts.

Five counties are presently able to field two overseas players in the same match - Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Sussex and Warwickshire.

Their cases are special because the players concerned were qualified before the "cut off" point of November 28, 1978.

Australia call in Hookes

Sydney, (Reuter) - David Hookes was re-appointed vice-captain of the Australian Test side yesterday two years after losing the job for publicly criticising then-skipper Kim Hughes.

Hookes, ignored by the selectors since Australia's tour of the West Indies early last year, won back his place in the side yesterday when he was named for the second Test against New Zealand starting in Sydney on Friday. He said he was delighted that he had been appointed vice-captain which followed "initial surprise at being selected".

Such a good player that he's not going to be relying on a vice-captain too much," Hookes said. "I see the vice-captain's job as helping the captain off the field rather than on it."

The dashing 30-year-old South Australian captain, who has played only 19 Tests since his debut in the 1977 Centenary Test against England, twisted the selectors' arm by amassing almost 400 runs at an average of over 65 this season.

Three weeks ago he scored a century against the New Zealanders and continued his dazzling form yesterday with 102 in a Sheffield Shield match against Queensland at Adelaide.

The selectors made two other changes to the side beaten by an innings in the first Test, bringing in the left-arm spinner, Ray Bright, for the injured fast bowler, Geoff Lawson, and batsman Robbie Kerr. Andrew Hilditch has been dropped and Kepler Wessels was replaced, having announced his retirement from Test cricket.

New Zealand have flown the off-spinner, John Bracewell, to Sydney for Friday's match. He has been on stand-by for the tour. Although the New Zealand team has not yet been named, Bracewell is widely expected to join Vaughan Brown and Stephen Bock to give the side three spinners.

"We have dominated up front so far," David Parker, Durham's coach, said. "We have four big men in the lineup, we have a back row who do well with the ball in their hands, and a running scrum half who can take on the opposition around the set pieces."

Notable among those big men are Howe, the Hartlepool Rover lock, who at 6ft 6in has proved a handful at the lineout and McBain, in his final year at Durham University, who has been a revelation at flank forward.

Nevertheless, Parker stresses the adaptability of his players. Kirkup, the Durham City scrum half, in his first full county season, has improved game by game, and there are two speedy wings available in Lancaster at Blundellsands on Saturday.

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RUGBY UNION



Stanley's man: Milne, back in action after injury

Scottish sponsorship about to run dry

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Schweppes, the soft drink firm who have sponsored the Scottish League since the 1977-78 season, have announced their decision to withdraw at the end of this season. They will, however, retain their interest in the Welsh Challenge Cup competition which they have sponsored over a similar period.

This decision leaves the Scottish Rugby Union seeking a backer for a competition involving 28 clubs. They are confident they will be able to fill the gap.

In the past eight years Schweppes have put some £200,000 into Scottish rugby, though there has been some criticism this season of declining standards of play in the upper echelons. The Scottish selectors will be hoping for more representative performances in the inter-district championship next season for which the Scottish Rugby Union are to present a cup for the first time.

Oxford University at least are not plagued by sponsorship difficulties. With Yamaichi International backing the annual match against Major R. V. Stanley's XV, which takes place at Valley Road this afternoon, and Kobe Steel throwing their weight into the balance with their proposal of a graduate scholarship for an Australian with outstanding sporting ability next year, Oxford's star may be said to be in an eastern ascendancy.

The University welcomed back Risman at centre today after an absence of six matches because of a broken nose and a damaged right shoulder. Risman, a Blue last year, passes another Blue on the way out in Phillips, whose place on the left wing goes to Pearson.

It is something of a merry-go-round in the Oxford back division: Pearson, last year's scrum half, has been ousted by Roberts but has hobbled up again a full back. His value to the team is indicated by his removal to the wing now that Kennedy is picked to play once more as full back.

All these changes will be of little value if Oxford's forwards, who have settled into an effective force, cannot win the ball from a Stanley's pack containing some powerful scrummers. One of them, Milne, Scotland's tightest prop, has been troubled by a groin strain this season. Today's match will be a good test before his first senior appearance of the season for Harlequins on Saturday, against Cambridge University.

The invitation team have been forced to replace two original selections, Evans, the Swansea prop and Mallet, the South African No 8. Two of Bath's outstanding young players, Sole, a Scotland B prop and Egerton, and England squad member, replace them. There is also a doubt whether Mullin, the Irish centre, will be available with the inter-provincial championship looming in Ireland this weekend.

The Midlands group of the county championship, sponsored by Thorn EMI, will be decided this evening when Leicestershire play Warwickshire for the second time, also on Saturday. A month ago, also on the Leicester ground, Leicestershire won 25-13 but their back row has changed since then. Richards, the England squad No 8, has a leg injury and misses a confrontation with a rival squad member, Robbins. Perkins, his replacement from Westleigh, is also hurt, leaving the tall but raw Charles to play alongside Tebbutt and Marriott.

In contrast, Warwickshire will have Travers fit to play in their back row, thus leaving their all-County forwards undisturbed.

And Cooke (Middlesbrough), who Parker believes to be as fast as any scrum half in the Yorkshire and England wing.

In 1967 Durham and Surrey played two drawn games in the final before sharing the championship. Durham have not added to their county honours since, but have won or shared the championship seven times - but it is worth noting that that year they were led from stand-off half by Michael Weston and that the pack including Tony Urwin and Keith Sagar.

Those three occupy leading administrative roles today: Weston is chairman of the England selectors, Urwin is president of Durham County, and Sagar chairman of the county selectors. It may be argued, therefore, that yesterday's players are still doing an effective job in a part of the world frequently overlooked, by the "dominant south".

Whatever the rest of the country may think of the county championship, it remains a competition evoking considerable pride in the north. That, and Durham's growing confidence in their own abilities, will help offset Lancashire's home advantage on Saturday, when a draw would be enough for Durham to qualify for the semi-finals. If Lancashire win, and Yorkshire defeat Cheshire at Morley, the calculators will be in business again.

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David Miller on America's Cup

Bond syndicate playing hard to get with rivals

Freemantle

The mood of gamesmanship, which for better or worse lifted the America's Cup out of relative and exclusive anonymity, after 132 years is alive and flourishing on the waters of Freemantle. With just over 14 months to go to the twenty-seventh challenge match, the potential defenders and challengers are already kicking tactical spray in each others' faces.

The most costly event ever staged in a single sport - even that is by America's Cup standards, with some 16 syndicates collectively budgeting upwards of US\$160 million - promises to be no less absorbing than in Newport, Rhode Island, two years ago.

"Has Bondy got himself a set of rubber rules like the Americans?" a taxi driver here asked me cynically. The Royal Perth Yacht Club has no intention of engaging in the rule-book jousting to which the New York Yacht Club descended in a final desperate bid to cling to the trophy. Yet rank and file Australians outside the sport will be almost offended if Alan Bond does not use the same sort of subterfuge, if required, to keep the cup down-under. Some ruthless precedents have unfortunately been established.

What Bond's Defence syndicate is doing at the moment is playing hard to get with the rival Royal Perth Syndicate, Taskforce 87, which is run by a millionaire, Kevin Parry whose Parry Corporation has put up \$5 million to back one of the three Australian campaigns vying against Bond to defend the cup.

Parry's attitude is that they are still two years ahead of the opposition in design knowledge. They believe they have the proof, with evidence as yet undisclosed, that Australia III is faster than its predecessor and with an even more radical Australia IV, shortly to follow.

The intrigue on the side of NYCC is that it was not certain Parry's syndicate would be the sailing. They have two of the same name designed by Sparkman and Stevens, with numbers US42 and US44. On Monday they sailed US42. Yesterday they appeared to be sailing US42 with the sails US44, but some experienced observers among the flotilla of press boats and helicopters reckoned it was the US44 hull with the same overpainted.

And was it a properly rated 12-metre? The NYCC boats are nicknamed "Lego boats" because they have interchangeable backstays which can be switched within a few hours. Kookaburra's camp were of the opinion that whichever the America II boat was, it was simply sailed by Kollins after John Murray, their designer-helmsman, said the Australian yachtman of the year, had got Kookaburra ahead in the first race. "Kollins threw everything at us, in 17 knots they were very tight, superb. Kookaburra's crew were half as fast," said Tim Flynn, driver of Kookaburra's tender.

To try to get the measure of Kookaburra, Bond's camp had cleverly loaned many of their crew to South Australia for the trial races. South Australia, having been designed by the Australia II Ben Lexcen. When, in desperation last week, Taskforce agreed to trial-race against the NYCC America II - on Monday this week, Bond's office was on the phone within hours to say they were now willing to race Kookaburra. They were told it was too late.

In two races on Monday, Kookaburra led the first by 45 seconds when a 190 degree wind shift forced the race to be abandoned, and America II won the second by over a minute. Yesterday Kookaburra led the first leg of the first race but was then comprehensively outlasted by John Kollins, the helmsman, who quit the campaign because of domestic matters in September but has since rejoined.

Kollins was the skipper who in Courageous, was pushing Dennis Conner so hard in the 1983 American defence trials and he lost yesterday's second race by a quarter of a minute.

Warren Jones, the executive director who was the mastermind onshore in Bond's campaign in Newport, protested yesterday that he was at a loss to understand the Taskforce decision. "It's beyond us, they're just appealing the Americans by racing them," he said. "What this has now done is to prevent us sailing against them [Kookaburra] because that would tell the Americans everything about us."

Terry Newby, an Englishman who settled in Western Australia after competing in the 1969 world Cherub championships and was chosen from 78 applicants as operations manager for Taskforce, swiftly contradicted Jones's view.

"Bond's attitude has always been 'how are we going to stop them?' For months they have been saying they would race us

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Kollins lost second race

next week, always putting it off. They would have left the waiting indefinitely, because we needed to get a new syndicate, we were obliged to trial with America II. If they were willing, we'd already spent \$30m and we needed information."

Jones's attitude is that they are still two years ahead of the opposition in design knowledge. They believe they have the proof, with evidence as yet undisclosed, that Australia III is faster than its predecessor and with an even more radical Australia IV, shortly to follow.

The intrigue on the side of NYCC is that it was not certain Parry's syndicate would be the sailing. They have two of the same name designed by Sparkman and Stevens, with numbers US42 and US44. On Monday they sailed US42. Yesterday they appeared to be sailing US42 with the sails US44, but some experienced observers among the flotilla of press boats and helicopters reckoned it was the US44 hull with the same overpainted.

And was it a properly rated 12-metre? The NYCC boats are nicknamed "Lego boats" because they have interchangeable backstays which can be switched within a few hours. Kookaburra's camp were of the opinion that whichever the America II boat was, it was simply sailed by Kollins after John Murray, their designer-helmsman, said the Australian yachtman of the year, had got Kookaburra ahead in the first race. "Kollins threw everything at us, in 17 knots they were very tight, superb. Kookaburra's crew were half as fast," said Tim Flynn, driver of Kookaburra's tender.

To try to get the measure of Kookaburra, Bond's camp had cleverly loaned many of their crew to South Australia for the trial races. South Australia, having been designed by the Australia II Ben Lexcen. When, in desperation last week, Taskforce agreed to trial-race against the NYCC America II - on Monday this week, Bond's office was on the phone within hours to say they were now willing to race Kookaburra. They were told it was too late.

In two races on Monday, Kookaburra led the first by 45 seconds when a 190 degree wind shift forced the race to be abandoned, and America II won the second by over a minute. Yesterday Kookaburra led the first leg of the first race but was then comprehensively outlasted by John Kollins, the helmsman, who quit the campaign because of domestic matters in September but has since rejoined.

Kollins was the skipper who in Courageous, was pushing Dennis Conner so hard in the 1983 American defence trials and he lost yesterday's second race by a quarter of a minute.

Warren Jones, the executive director who was the mastermind onshore in Bond's campaign in Newport, protested yesterday that he was at a loss to understand the Taskforce decision. "It's beyond us, they're just appealing the Americans by racing them," he said. "What this has now done is to prevent us sailing against them [Kookaburra] because that would tell the Americans everything about us."

Terry Newby, an Englishman who settled in Western Australia after competing in the 1969 world Cherub championships and was chosen from 78 applicants as operations manager for Taskforce, swiftly contradicted Jones's view.

"Bond's attitude has always been 'how are we going to stop them?' For months they have been saying they would race us

and Cooke (Middlesbrough), who Parker believes to be as fast as any scrum half in the Yorkshire and England wing.

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Sketchley profits up 21%

By Alison Eadie

Sketchley, the industrial workwear rental, linen hire and dry-cleaning group, made pre-tax profits in the half year to September 27 of £6.2 million, an increase of 21.4 per cent on sales 6 per cent higher.

Operating profits were strongly ahead in Britain and more modestly ahead in North America. Canada had a disappointing summer and showed no sales growth, but autumn trading has bounced back.

The pretax profit was helped by a 56.4 per cent fall in interest charges, due to the cash flow reducing borrowings and United Kingdom cash deposits earning a higher rate of interest than the rate payable on dollar borrowings.

Sketchley is now also the fourth largest show retailer in Britain and has recently started photo developing and mono-granulating services. The interim dividend was raised to 4.7p from 4.3p.

£7.8m cash call by Readicut

Readicut International, the specialist textiles company chaired by Professor Roland Smith, is raising £7.8 million net in a one-for-three rights issue at 32p a share.

The money will be used to acquire two subsidiaries of Brammer and six associated companies for £4.2 million, with an additional £1.9 million paid to settle intra-group debt within Brammer. The companies are Russell's Rubber and Brammer Transmissions.

The balance of the rights issue will be used to improve manufacturing technology and automated processes. Readicut's interim pretax profits to September 30 jumped to £1.65 million from £903,000 on turnover 13

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Law Report November 20 1985

Result of illegal act is unlawful

Regina v Liverpool City Council, Ex parte Ferguson and Others
Same v Same, Ex parte Grantham and Others
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Tucker
Judgment delivered November 14
The resolution of Liverpool City Council to dismiss its teachers, followed by their purported dismissal, was unlawful because it was the direct consequence of the fixing of an illegal rate, because it was not taken for proper educational purposes, and because its consequences were a breach of the council's statutory duties as a local education authority under section 8 of the Education Act 1944.
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in giving reasons for granting on October 17 to the appellants, James Ferguson, William Smith and the National Union of Teachers, and the applicants in the second application, William Jeffrey Grantham, Arthur Thomas and the National Association of Head Teachers, declarations that the decision of the council on September 27, 1985 to issue notices to all its primary, secondary and head teachers (including dismissed teachers) that they were dismissed with effect from December 31, 1985 was *ultra vires* and void, and that the notices issued to the teachers in pursuance of that decision were also *ultra vires* and void.
Mr Andrew Hillier for the first appellants, Mr Michael Bellof, QC, and Mr David Pannick for the second appellants, Mr John Laws for the Secretary of State, Mr Edward Schiemann, QC and Mr Charles Cross for the council.
LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that on June 14, 1985 the council had fixed a rate for 1985/1986 which was in excess of the projected level of net revenue expenditure. The decision of the council to dismiss the teachers was a direct consequence of its decision to make an illegal rate, contrary to the provisions of the General Rate Act 1967.
The making of the illegal rate was followed by a failure to consider or implement the options which could have been taken to balance the budget. The decision to dismiss the teachers was the result of that failure, and the teachers were to remain dismissed, education in Liverpool would stop for at least a month, and possibly three months.
Steps taken with that result were not taken legitimately in furtherance of the council's duties as the local education authority. The steps were not taken for educational reasons but because the council was not prepared to depart from the unlawful course it had embarked upon when it made its decision to make an unlawful rate.
The resolution to dismiss the teachers and their purported dismissal were therefore unlawful on the ground of illegality.
Moreover, it was undoubtedly irrational to take a decision so flawed by illegality. The council could not assert its administrative immunity as a bar to the court's intervention.
For the court to refuse relief would be tantamount to giving tacit approval to an illegal action deliberately pursued by the council. The appellants would be allowed.
Solicitors: Mr Hugh Pierce, Mr D. M. Hart, Messrs Bland, Mr W. J. Murray, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Committee of one is unauthorized
New facts not to be raised on an appeal

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Hillingdon London Borough Council
Section 10(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which conferred the power on a local authority to delegate to a committee, subcommittee, or an officer of an authority, or to another local authority, could not be construed so as to permit a committee of one.
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held, on November 15, dismissing an application for judicial review by the London Borough of Hillingdon of the secretary of state's decision not to determine appeals made against enforcement notices issued by the chairman of the council's planning committee to whom that function had been delegated.
MR JUSTICE WOOLF rejected the council's submission that they had fixed one as the number of members of a committee when there was action taken by the chairman alone. The 1972 Act was not a consolidating Act and had to be taken to use the word "committee" in the sense that that word was now used. The only possible interpretation was one which involved rejecting the concept of a committee of one.
The action of the chairman in this case was unauthorized and *ultra vires*. It followed that the decision of the secretary of state was correct and that the standing orders, in so far as they purported to give the authority for what was done by the chairman, were also *ultra vires*.
LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the council's jurisdiction under section 246 was limited to determining an appeal against a decision of the council. It was not the council's power to determine an appeal against a decision of the council's chairman. The council's only power was one of remission with an opinion on the point of law, see Order 94, rule 12(4) and (5) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.
The court did not have power to find facts, and what had been asserted to be a fundamental breach of the rules of natural justice had not been mentioned at the inquiry or any time thereafter, until the appellants' notice of motion was entered.

Assisting sequestered union is contempt

Taylor v NUM and Others
Professional advisors were under an obligation not to assist in the commission of a contempt of court.
MR JUSTICE NICHOLLS said in the Chancery Division on November 14, discharging the order of sequestration of the National Union of Mineworkers' assets after a written apology had been offered to the High Court on behalf of the union by its three national officers.
HIS LORDSHIP said that it could not be stated too often that it was essential that the law should be upheld in order to give protection and assistance to those who needed it and the law applied to everyone including government departments, corporations and unions.
The more powerful the organiza-

Incompetence by police in extradition delay
Director is not liable for company cheque

Regina v Bow Street Magistrate's Court, Ex parte Van der Hout
Failure by the police to bring the applicant as soon as possible before the stipendiary magistrate following his arrest on a provisional warrant under section 8 of the Extradition Act 1870 was a serious irregularity and an unjustifiable delay but did not amount, in the present case, to a misuse or manipulation of the process of the court by the prosecution.
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Tindal Evans) held in a reserved judgment on November 7 that it was submitted for the director that when he signed the cheques he adopted all the printed cheques, including the company's name and account number, the court of appeal (Lord Justice Dillon and Sir George Waller) held on November 14, granting a director an unconditional *inter alia* against him in his personal capacity in respect of two dishonoured cheques.
LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that it was submitted for the director that when he signed the cheques he adopted all the printed cheques, including the company's name and account number, thereby showing that the cheque was drawn on the company's account and not by him personally.
That approach was in line with *Chapman v Smithurst* (1909) 1 KB 927 where a cheque was issued bearing a stamp of the company's name and a director's personal signature. The position with the modern form of cheque bearing the printed name of the company and account number, was *a fortiori*.
In *Ingram v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (The Times November 18) solicitors for the taxpayer were *Ingram, Ansell, Levy* of Hendon, and not Kleinmann, Klarfeld & Co.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME also on page 34

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To: AMBITIOUS SECRETARIES £10,000+

From Frank Barnard Subject: You
Do you want one of the most challenging secretarial jobs in the communications business? Are you efficient, calm, good with people, happy when work is really demanding? Is your typing terrific, your shorthand good? Are you eager for responsibility? Do you think a secretary is more a manager, less a memo machine? Do you have ambitions to move onto the account side when you're ready, after working alongside some of the best in the business? Finally, do you want to join a full-service company with a new name, old values and a bright future?
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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

also on page 35.

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A lively, friendly Personnel team in the City needs a paragon to join them! As Sec/ Admin Assistant you will be dealing with agencies, arranging interviews and providing secretarial support (90/50). The pace is fast and pressurised so the ability to keep your sense of humour is essential. Basic salary c£9000, plus superb benefits yielding possible package in excess of £11,000. Age 21-26.

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Accounts preparation is not involved in this job, although liaison with banks would be necessary.

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Please reply to:

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AMF International Limited

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(Department of Physics)

SECRETARY

(Grade 4)

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Recruitment Consultants

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If you enjoy variety, fun and want to use your initiative then this is the opening for you. This company is young and going ahead, and they are looking for someone with creative ideas and a good sense of humour. You will be responsible for the efficient running of the office. You will work closely with the Creative Director and will be expected to take initiative and to be able to handle a variety of tasks. Previous experience in publishing is preferable as well as a capable & unobjectionable personality. Age 25-35.

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(See Job)

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5 storeys with original
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shaped living room, kitchen,
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stone paved walled garden.
£240,000
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Elegant Ground Floor Flat
in prestige Victorian
Mansion Block. 21ft
reception central hall, 22ft
bedroom, 2nd bedroom,
bathroom, large
kitchen/diner, CHW, Porch.
110 years lease, £125,000.
Tel: 727 9315, after 6 pm

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Just off Ken High St. Cottage type
house with enormous potential for
improvement. 6 rooms, kitchen etc.
pleasant rear garden. £150,000 spent
during 1984. 2 mins. every amenity,
quiet site required. Practical price
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Tel 01-228 1093 or

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5 bed period house near parkland. £60,000.
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5 bedrooms, 3 receptions, 2

bath, shower, double garage,

large patio and terrace.

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MUSWELL HILL, 1100 sq ft, 4 beds

2 baths, 2 balconies, 2

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DOCKLANDS, Immediate 3 bedroom

apartment, 1000 sq ft, 2 beds,

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/1 The Domesday Book, 1987

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The survey of listed buildings in
England, today's version of the
Domesday Book, is beginning to
reach a conclusion. By 1987 it is
estimated by English Heritage that
nearly half a million buildings will
have been listed, compared with
275,000 in 1982.

By then, under the auspices of the
Historic Buildings and Monuments
Commission for England, the com-
plete coverage of the country will
have been achieved, something not
otherwise possible until about the
year 2010 until the accelerated
resurvey of listed buildings got under
way.

This was prompted by the demo-
lition of the famous Firestone factory
in London in August 1980, which
upset the Department of the Environ-
ment no end, and by Lord Montagu's
report, *Britain's Historic Buildings*,
which was published early the
following year.

The report urged a rapid accelera-
tion of this listing programme to
save historic and notable buildings
from demolition, and since October
1982, when the accelerated resurvey
was launched, more than 75,000
buildings of all types - churches,
houses, theatres, hotels, municipal
and industrial buildings, pillar boxes,
landmarks and milestones - have been
listed.

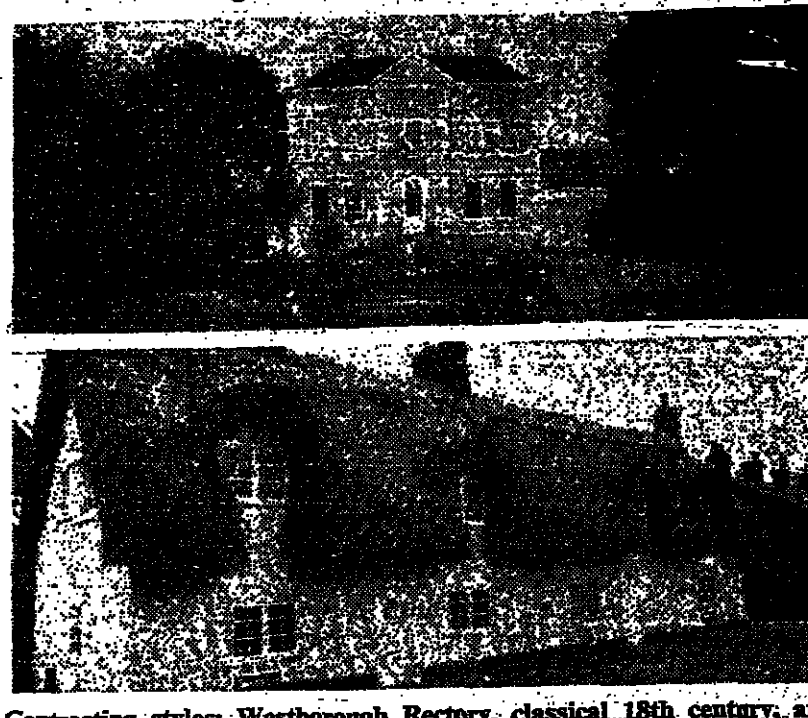
Brian Anthony, deputy chief
inspector of English Heritage, de-
scribes the survey as "the most
comprehensive and intensive record-
ing of buildings ever carried out,
comparable with the Domesday Book,
nine centuries ago".

Out of a total of 360,590 buildings
listed up to October this year, 5,736
are Grade I, buildings of exceptional
interest. The remainder are Grade II,
buildings of special interest, which
warrant every effort being made to
preserve them, and of which about
one in ten are Grade II* listed, of
particular importance.

Many of the listed buildings are
residential houses, ranging from the
very grand to the humble but historic,
and of course it is a privilege to own
or live in a listed house. There are
drawbacks too, as the owner cannot
demolish or substantially alter a listed
property without permission, and for
a number of them the conditions are
onerous, if not downright obstructive.

The benefits are the prestige from
owning such a property, from the fact
that grants, VAT-exempt, are avail-
able for repairs, and from the
likelihood that they are not only
rewarding to live in but profitable to
sell.

The Heritage people point out that
they do not want to stop an owner
from painting the front door or
carrying out other justifiable changes,
but are keen to prevent important



Contrasting styles: Westborough Rectory, classical 18th century, at
£130,000, and a thatched cottage in Suffolk, for £37,500

properties from being ruined by
thoughtless or deliberate additions or
the substituting of old windows by
modern monstrosities. It is also true
that owners do not have to carry out
repairs, grant or not, and some are
known to run them down deliberately
to force demolition.

Grade I properties rarely come on
to the market - Littlecote, now owned
by Peter de Savary, being one of the
most recent and well known - but
there is always a trickle of Grade II
houses for sale. There are listed barns,
too, and, as reported on the opposite
page, the occasional listed grove.

Grade II properties rarely come on
to the market - Littlecote, now owned
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RENTALS
APPEAR ON
PAGE 35

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** AM.
6.50 **Breakfast** Time with Frank Bough and Simon Bates. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and sport at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.50 and 8.50; the new Top Twenty at 8.55. Plus, Beverly Hills' fashion news, and Alison Mitchell's 'phone-in financial' advice. The newspapers are reviewed at 8.35 by Russian radio and television commentator, Vladimir Ponomarev.
9.20 **Cee-fax** 10.30 **Play School**.
10.50 **Cherish**. This week's edition of the magazine programme for Asian women includes a discussion on child-minding and child-minding with Sharan Sachdeva, a child-minding advisor. 11.15 **Cee-fax**.
12.20 **Write Now** Programme six of the letter-writing series (P. Cee-fax).
12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. Includes subtitled news headlines 12.35. Regional news and weather.
1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One presented by Bob Langley, Josephine Buchan and Paul Cole. Today's edition includes Suzi Menkes, fashion editor of The News, talking about her book on royal jewelry; Beverly Hills on a tour of the 'ladies' body building scene 1.45 Mop and Smiff (P. Cee-fax) 3.52 Regional news.
3.55 **Paddington** Makes a Clean Sweep (P. 4.00) Fingermouse with Iain Lauchlan and Jane Hardy 4.15 The Voyages of Dr Doolittle. Cartoon series about the man who can talk to animals 4.35 **Heartbeat**. Tony Hart's art class.
5.00 **John Craven's Newsround**, 5.10 **Colour in the Creek**. Episode six of the drama series set in the Australian goldfields.
5.35 **Masterpiece**.
6.00 **News** with Nicholas Witchell and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
6.35 **London Plus**.
7.00 **Wogan**. Among tonight's guests are Julie Walters, Denise Coffey and, via satellite from Los Angeles, Michael Praed. There is also a wine-tasting, and music from Level 42.
7.40 **Pornidge**. A new prisoner invades the privacy of Fletcher's cell to prove that this new man must be to elicit courtesy from the normally hard-nosed 'wog'. Fletcher is determined to find out why. Starring Ronnie Barker and, this evening, Maurice Denham (P. Cee-fax).
8.10 **Dynasty**. Daniel, still reeling from the news that he is the father of Sammy Jo, flies to New York with his wife for a reunion with his daughter. (Cee-fax).
8.55 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
9.00 **News** with Julia Somerville and John Humphrey. Weather.
9.25 **Soldiers**. This week's programme in the history of fighting men series deals with the progress made in battlefield treatment of injured soldiers (Cee-fax). (See Choice).
10.15 **Sportnight** introduced by Steve Rider. Football includes highlights of Scotland's World Cup first leg game at Australia, and of the second leg game between Holland and Belgium. There is also a preview of the Lombard RAC Rally with a profile of the debutant Mike Birt and a driver, Tony Pond.
11.30 **Ruby Macintosh**. Low-key comedy from the amusing American (P.).
12.00 **Weather**.

TV-am

6.15 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and Annette Hill. News with Jane Fowler at 6.17, 6.37, 7.00, 7.20, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; exercises at 6.20; sport at 6.35 and 7.34; Bob Beckman's moneytalk at 6.45; cartoon at 7.24; pop video at 7.55; Byles Brandreth's video report at 7.50 and 8.50; the new Top Twenty at 8.55. Plus, Beverly Hills' fashion news, and Alison Mitchell's 'phone-in financial' advice. The newspapers are reviewed at 8.35 by Russian radio and television commentator, Vladimir Ponomarev.
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ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**.
9.30 **For Schools** Geography: slopes, for A-level students. 9.55 **Maths** for the number nine. 10.04 **The art of mime**. 10.21 **Toys** - from the factory to the trade fair and shop 10.33 **English**: an analysis of the television series *Minder* 11.00 **Continuing a local history project on the 1917 explosion at a Silvertown munitions factory** 11.07 **English village customs and ceremonies** 11.34 **The reason for the weather**.
12.00 **Om and Cheep**. Puppet adventures of a worm and a baby bird (P. 12.10) **Our Backyard** where Peter and Laura make a television set from a cardboard box.
12.30 **Ralph McElfat's Streets of London**. Old Clapton Street, the Soho thoroughfare with the superb food shops - among other things.
1.00 **News at One** with Leonard Paskin. 1.20 **Thames News**. 1.30 **A Country Practice**.
2.30 **Farmhouse Kitchen**. Grace Mulgan makes treacle and Christmas puddings. 3.00 **Talk the High Road**. Drama in the Scottish highland estate of Glenloch. 3.25 **Thames News headlines**. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.
4.00 **Om and Cheep**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.10 **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends**. The Sad Story of Henry, narrated by Ringo Starr. 4.15 **The Krazy Kitchen** with Stu Francis, Carole-Anne Rice and guest Glen Sammarco. 4.40 **Danger - Marmalade at Work** (P. Cee-fax). 5.00 **After the Jester**. Animated series about a spaceman.
5.15 **Blockbusters**.
5.25 **News**. 5.30 **Thames news**. 5.45 **Help! Viv Taylor** goes with news of the GLC's Funding Pack.
6.35 **Crossroads**. Anne-Marie is worried about her trip to the psychiatrist.
7.00 **News**. 7.10 **Yes! Life**. Eamonn Andrews is waiting to spring an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting worthy.
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Bet is not behind the bar again and Betty is forced to make up stories for the reasons for her non-appearance (Cee-fax).
8.00 **Subliminal**. When the two couples' television breaks down they decide to live without the tube (Cee-fax).
8.30 **Girls on Top**. Candice drops a hint that she is being dated by a young member of the Royal Family. (Cee-fax).
9.00 **Minder**. The Car Lot Beggars. Arthur's fellow second-hand car dealer, Wally, hires Terry to look after his car lot after the log books and keys of his stock are stolen. Suspicion falls on the local gypsies but Terry is convinced that they are not the culprits (P. Cee-fax).
10.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
10.15 **News** with Sandy Gall and Pamela Armstrong.
10.35 **Film** *Salmon - Year of the Cat* (1983) starring Judi Dench and Freddie Forrester. Love story unfolding during the last months of the Vietnam War. A made for television drama, directed by Stephen Frears (P.).
12.35 **Night Thoughts**.



Ivan Payer, porter at Queens' College, 8.20pm

QUEENS' A CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE (BBC 2, 8.20pm) has concentrated thus far on the hierarchy: the governors (academic and administrative) and the governed. In a word, the Upstairs people. Tonight is the turn of the Downstairs people: the porters, bed-makers, staff-sweepers, plasterers. I was tempted to include the catering staff, but considering that Cambridge University now makes £250,000 a year arranging conferences, perhaps the caterers may be said to be at least half-way upstairs. I was tempted, too, to include the sick-bay staff, but considering that the lady in charge is none other than the sister of Britain's best comedy actor, Ronnie Barker, I cannot bring myself to think of her as Downstairs. Once a year, Up and Down change places at Queens'. The President and

Fellows wait on the domestics, rolling out the fare (spiced sausage rolls and sandwiches) is less elaborate than that served up at the Fellows at the annual Smith Feast (lobster tails, pigeon, roast beef, passion fruit sorbet, etc.). One of the porters at Queens', Ivan Payer, sports a bowler and loses his cool with blubious undergraduates only when they knock it off. I will not go so far as to say that I think SOLDIERS (BBC1, 9.25pm) resembles war, but the glory theme is never all that far under the surface. Not so tonight. This is a strictly blood and guts episode, with tales of captors slitting prisoners' throats from ear to ear, entrails spilling out like the stuffing of a mattress, dying

soldiers calling out for Mother, boiling oil being poured into sword wounds, a doctor at the Battle of Borodino amputating 200 limbs, and stretches of human skin skinning the sides of a blazing tank. Yet there are even worse horrors waiting in the wings, and it is impossible to argue against the film's conclusion that the thought of the unimaginable awfulness of a nuclear conflict is probably the best guarantee we have of a hokum-free future. THE ROYAL CONCERT (Radio 3, 7.40pm) huffs familiar stuff. It is Radio 3 in the unfamiliar guise of a populist Grieg Piano Concerto, the moon song from *Rusalka*, the Academic Festival Overture, and so on. All that is missing is the 'New World' still cards like this, who would still dare to accuse Radio 3 of being elitist? Peter Davalle

BBC 2

- 9.00 **Cee-fax**.
9.25 **Daytime on Two**: accident prevention advice from Jimmy Savile. 9.38 **Science**: stability. 10.00 **For four and five-year-olds** 10.15 **Maths**: tables 10.38 **Maths**: statistics 11.00 **Words and pictures for the young** 11.17 **Myths and legends of the Scottish highlands** 11.40 **What it's like to be 12** 12.00 **The evolution of the landscape**.
12.35 **Lesson eight of the swimming course for beginners** 1.00 **Maths for adults studying for O-levels** 1.15 **Working on the technical side of television production** 1.38 **How the Post Office organises the postal system** 2.00 **An introduction to brass instruments with children from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama** 2.18 **Diets** 2.40 **Make your own puppets** 3.00 **Cee-fax**.
3.25 **News Summary** with subtitles. Weather.
5.30 **The Allotment Show**. For gardening enthusiasts who enjoy vegetable growing. First shown on BBC North East.
6.00 **Film**: Don't Look Back (1981) starring Louis Gossett Jr and Cleavon Little. A masterful 'satellite' Paige, a celebrated American baseball player who overcame racial prejudice in the 1940s to become the first black player to represent the Cleveland Indians. Directed by Richard Cole.
7.30 **Musical Time**. A BBC Schools television production of an animated version of Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*. The narrator is Helen Segal.
7.50 **Out of Court** presented by David Jessel and Sue Cook. Among the items this week is an examination of a possible victimization case involving two students who were part of a demonstration that was, they claim, dispersed somewhat heavily by the police.
8.20 **Queens' A Cambridge College**: Serving. A profile of the people who help to run the college from the Fellows' Subliminal to the catering staff porters and bed-makers. (See Choice).
9.00 **Film**: Lonely Hearts (1982) starring Wendy Hughes and Norman Kaye. Romantic tale of a middle-aged bachelor who, after the death of his mother, decides to invest in membership of a lonely hearts club. His first introduction to an attractive shrinking violet and this story of their courtship is a mixture of humour and misunderstanding. Directed by Paul Cox.
10.35 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
10.40 **Newsnight** includes a report by Peter Snow on the progress of the summit meeting in Geneva.
11.25 **Weather**.
11.30 **The Lords Today**. Christopher Jones reports on the day's proceedings in the House of Lords. Ends at 11.50.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 **Film**: That Uncertain Feeling (1941) starring Maureen O'Hara, Michael Douglas and Burgess Meredith. Comedy about a bored wife's affair with a pianist she meets when she visits a psychiatrist. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.
4.00 **A Plus** Mavis Nicholson talks to author William Boyd about his interest in public schools.
4.30 **Countdown**. Yesterday's winner of the words and numbers competition is challenged by Tim Davies, a business studies graduate from Hastings.
5.00 **Alice**. Mel's decision to let his friends at the door know the contents of his wallet leads to them squabbling over each other's legacy.
5.30 **World of Animation**, presented by Richard Evans.
6.00 **Father's Day**. Comedy series starring John Alderton as a father who decides to stand up for his much-abused species. With Rosalind Ayres as his wife (P.).
6.30 **Looking into Paintings**. Part two of the series produced in collaboration with the Open University, designed to enhance the enjoyment of visiting art galleries and museums. Robert Curran, director of Christie's Fine Arts Course, examines Constable's *The Hay Wain*, and discusses the painting with Reg Gadeny, a biographer of Constable, art historian Graham Reynolds, and picture restorer John Bull (Cee-fax).
7.00 **Channel Four news** with Alastair Stewart and Nicholas Owen.
7.50 **Comment**. This week's political slot is filled by Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for Cornwall North. Weather.
8.00 **On the March**. Part seven of the series tracing the history of Time Life's cinema news magazine, *The March of Time*, features two members of the magazine's production team - Mary Losley Field and Edgar Anstey.
8.30 **Diverse Reports**: Paper Tiger. Tim Brooks and Ron McKay of Media Week magazine argue that the 'left' are leaving it a bit late to change their mind about resistance to 'new technology' brought about by their antagonism towards Eddie Shah and his new national newspaper.
9.00 **Mighty Moments from World History**. The National Theatre of Brent in the shapes of Desmond O'Grady and Angela Bennett dramatically re-tell the tale of Lawrence of Arabia. Starring Patrick Barlow and Robert Austin.
10.00 **Film**: *Living* (1982) starring Takashi Shimura. From the Robinson's of Japanese cinema, the story of a Japanese civil servant who, as he nears retirement, is told that he has cancer. He vows to do something altruistic before he meets his maker. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. Ends at 12.35.

Radio 4

- On long wave, also VHF stereo.
6.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News Briefing**. Weather. 6.10 **Farming**. 6.25 **Prayer**.
6.30 **Today**. Ind. 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 **News**. 6.45 **Business News**. 6.55, 7.55 **Weather**. 7.40 **News**. 7.25, 8.25 **Spot**. 7.45 **Today for the Day**. 8.35 **Yesterday in Parliament**. 8.57 **Weather**. Travel. 9.00 **News**.
9.05 **Midweek**. Libby Purves in conversation with guests. 9.15 **News**. **Question Time**. Experts answer listeners' questions. 9.30 **Morning Story**: Arabella's Answer to the Question: 'What's in a Name?' 9.45 **Today's News**. 9.55 **Today's News**. 10.00 **Today's News**. 10.05 **Today's News**. 10.10 **Today's News**. 10.15 **Today's News**. 10.20 **Today's News**. 10.25 **Today's News**. 10.30 **Today's News**. 10.35 **Today's News**. 10.40 **Today's News**. 10.45 **Today's News**. 10.50 **Today's News**. 10.55 **Today's News**. 11.00 **Today's News**. 11.05 **Today's News**. 11.10 **Today's News**. 11.15 **Today's News**. 11.20 **Today's News**. 11.25 **Today's News**. 11.30 **Today's News**. 11.35 **Today's News**. 11.40 **Today's News**. 11.45 **Today's News**. 11.50 **Today's News**. 11.55 **Today's News**. 12.00 **Today's News**. 12.05 **Today's News**. 12.10 **Today's News**. 12.15 **Today's News**. 12.20 **Today's News**. 12.25 **Today's News**. 12.30 **Today's News**. 12.35 **Today's News**. 12.40 **Today's News**. 12.45 **Today's News**. 12.50 **Today's 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Opponents of female ordination elected to two key Church of England posts

Synod blow to prospect of women priests

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The prospects for the ordination of women priests in the Church of England looked grimmer yesterday when clergy in the General Synod elected two opponents of women priests as their spokesmen and chairmen.

The Very Reverend David Silk was elected Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury and Canon Peter Boulton as Prolocutor of the Convocation of York. Both are prominent Anglo-Catholics and both were challenged by candidates who favour the ordination of women.

Father Peter Geldard, secretary of the Church Union and Anglo-Catholic spokesman in the Synod, said afterwards this was "strong evidence" that the legislation being prepared to permit women priests would not gain the required two-thirds majority.

The consolation prize for those in favour of women priests was the election of Professor David McLean as chairman of the House of Laity, displacing Mr Oswald Clark, who was also defeated in the elections for the vice-chairmanship. But the lack of a two-thirds majority in the House of Clergy, which consists of the two archbishops sitting together, would frustrate any majority in the House of Laity, because each house has a veto.

The opening day of the new session of the General Synod began with a service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen, and government and civic dignitaries. The guest preacher, the Primate of Scotland, the Most Reverend Alastair Haggard, suffered the ultimate pulpit nightmare of finding, halfway through his prepared text, he had left the rest of it behind. This denied him the chance to admonish the Church of England, because he had intended, according to the advance text, that "you don't always seem to your friends to be keeping your balance, or keeping your nerve".

The Synod then transferred

to Church House, Westminster, for the Queen's Inaugural speech, in which she referred to "hard, but necessary legislation ahead". She urged the Synod to continue to cherish the Anglican tradition of "unity in fellowship" when faced with difficulties, adding: "Go forth in the next five years with integrity, honesty and courage; be sure in the strength which God supplies".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, in his reply, praised the "care which our Queen has for the well-being of the Church of England. It is something which means a great deal to us."

It was announced later Dr Runcie is to go in to hospital early next month for an operation and will be out of action until the new year.

He and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, have commissioned a study of the legal and theological aspects of the Church of England having women bishops.

The Synod was informed of the appointment of Miss Sheila Cameron QC to chair a committee which will look ahead beyond the possible ordination of women priests.

The two archbishops have also set up a committee to prepare the details of legislation for ordaining women, to be headed by Professor McLean. He said his group would draft suggestions, concerning terms of compensation for clergy who resigned over the issue and to safeguard the conscience of those who remained while continuing to oppose women priests.

The Synod began its normal business with a general debate on the state of society, as part of a project by its Board for Social Responsibility to draw up goals for Britain.

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Reverend Hugh Montefiore, board chairman, said the project was concerned with the distribution of work, wealth and income and the state of family life, all in



The Queen arriving for the inauguration of the General Synod with Dr Runcie, left, and Dr Habgood (Photograph: Warren Harrison)

the light of Christian belief.

Society needed a sense of vision and "unless Christians pay attention to the need for goals, it is clear that no one else will do so. I only wish that our politicians will come to realize the uselessness of all their panaceas unless they are able to inspire the peoples of this country with goals while spending one's life and energy on achieving."

Today the Synod will debate the age of admission of children to Holy Communion, receive a report on the present systems for the appointment of bishops and begin to consider a measure allowing divorced men to be ordained for the priesthood.

Israel claims shooting down of Syrian jets

Continued from page 1

The Israeli military command said the two Syrian MiGs were downed when they tried to intercept Israeli jets over the Bekaa Valley.

The Israelis apparently fired missiles at the MiGs while they were still some miles away. This explained why they had crashed on Syrian territory, but because they fly at three times the speed of sound they were only seconds away from the Israeli aircraft.

Leaders optimistic as summit starts

Continued from page 1

One person who did not feel himself constrained by the ban was the Rev Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader and former presidential candidate who held a 40 minute meeting with Mr Gorbachov in between yesterday's two sessions.

At the meeting Mr Jackson, who was accompanied by Mr Bruce Kent, vice-president of CND, and a delegation of nuclear disarmers, handed the Soviet leader a petition calling for a halt to the arms race. A similar petition was handed to

the US delegation although a request by Mr Jackson to meet President Reagan was not taken up.

Last night President Reagan, his wife Nancy and members of the American delegation attended a dinner given by Mr Gorbachov. Although primarily a social occasion, American officials did not rule out a continuation of the leaders' fireside diplomacy.

Two more rounds of talks are planned for today at the Soviet mission.

Spotlight on wives, page 7

Unionists resign in protest over deal

Continued from page 1

Deep divisions between the Government and Opposition emerged as Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the Fianna Fail, launched a sustained critique of the deal.

But although he reserved his right not to be bound by the agreement, he avoided skilfully any commitment either to abandon or renegotiate if he eventually returns to power.

Many in the Republic expect he may try to make an agreement work and that his opposition is based on the fact that it was his arch rival who negotiated the accord.

In a low-key, 50 minute speech in which he sought to reassure Unionists and extol the advantages of the deal to both sections of the community, Dr Fitzgerald's voice became passionate only once when he warned of the danger of attempting to change the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of its people.

No sane person would attempt to do that as it would be "a recipe for disaster and could, I believe, lead only to a civil war," that would destroy the life of the people on the island.

He wanted the message, that the Irish Republic would not be a party to any attempt to change the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of its people, to penetrate "the haze of emotion and the miasma of fear into which some political leaders in Northern Ireland have sought to plunge the Unionist population".

In the period after the signing of the agreement.

His government was not seeking a role in Northern Ireland akin to a "Trojan horse" and he pointed out that if nationalist alienation could be ended "the terrorists of the IRA, whose objective is to maintain and murder members of the Unionist community in the hope of bludgeoning them into submission... would no longer be able to continue their bloody campaign".

Mr Haughey said that the deal was a "triumph of British diplomacy" which sought to bolster the existing structure in the North, which, itself, was the source of violence and instability.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11; and later opens "The Human Story" exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute, 3.

The Duke of Edinburgh receives an Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree from the President of the University of Jordan, Dr Abdel Salam Majali, Buckingham Palace, 10.30.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother presides Long Service Brides to Queen's Nurses of The Queen's Nursing Institute, St James's Palace, 2.55.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, opens the Lambeth Community Care Centre, Monkton Street, SE11, 3.15; and later attend the Royal Concert, Barbican Hall, 7.45.

Princess Margaret attends the premiere of the film *In Defence of the Realm* at the Odeon Theatre, Edinburgh, 7.50.

The Duke of Gloucester presents the awards to the winners of the 1985 ASBA/Daily Telegraph Business Spenders of the Arts Award Scheme, Savoy Hotel, 6.30.

Princess Alexandra attends a concert given by the London Sinfonia, St Margaret's Church, Westminster, 8.50.

The Michael of Kent is sworn in to the Honorary Freedom and Livery of the Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers Company, Stationers Hall, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Watercolours and drawings by Edna Clarke-Hall; Graves Art Gallery, Surrey St, Sheffield, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 19). Glass Now - Freeblown, cast, flat, etched and engraved glass by nineteen artists including Sam

Herman, Peter Layton, John Cook and David Hughes; Watercolours by Mike Hatfield and woodturns by Ian McGregor; Copernican Connection, Lock House, Berley, E York; Wed to Mon 10.30 to 6, closed Tues (ends Dec 22).

Landscapes and rural pictures by Richard Traut; Blake Gallery, Georges Lane, Crewekerne, Somerset; Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (ends Nov 23).

Drawings, etchings and watercolours by David Birwhistle; Framed, 46 Frier St, Worcester; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 4.30 (ends Dec 4).

Art in Iron - its manufacture and use in the South-east of England; City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Rd, Old Portsmouth; Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Dec 10).

Oxford Craft Guild; County Museum, Fletcher House, Park St, Woodstock; Tues to Fri 10 to 4, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Nov 24).

Egyptian landscapes - weavings from the Ramses Wissa Wasel School; Newcastle Polytechnic Gallery, Leazes Road, Newcastle; Fri to Mon to Thurs 10 to 6, Fri to Sat 10 to 4 (ends Dec 14).

Paintings and prints by Mick Exall; Cooper Gallery, Church St, Barrow; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 5.30, Sun 10.30 to 5 (ends Nov 30).

Dorset Dimensions - work by Geoffrey Tychenne; Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 2 to 5 (ends Nov 23).

Masterpieces of Reality - French 17th Century paintings from British collections; Leicestershire Museums and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends Feb 2).

Far and Near - landscapes by Clifford Bayly; Trinity Arts Centre, Church Rd, Tunbridge Wells, 10 to 5.30.

Music

Concert by the Alexander String Quartet; King's Hall, Newcastle University, 7.50.

Recital by Isabelle Flury (violin) and Robin Colvill (piano); University of Essex, Colchester, 1, and Runnymede Hall, Egham, 7.30.

Piano recital by James W. Baker; Belvoir Room, Charles Wilson Building, Leicester University, 1.10.

Concert by the Rosamunde String Quartet; quartets by Mozart, Debussy and Schubert; Concert Hall, Glasgow University, 8.

The Armenian State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble; Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 8.15.

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Works by Mozart, Debussy and Brahms; Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

Viking Jorvik - presenting the past to the future, by Peter Addyman; Graves Art Gallery, Surrey St, Sheffield, 12.30.

Donner - women at work, by Esther Rantzen; Ronald Building, Manchester University, 2.15.

Allan Ramsay - portrait painter, by James Holloway; William Robertson Building, George St, Edinburgh, 7.15.

Frontiers in Palaeontology, by Dr G. B. Curry; Grant Institute of Geology, Edinburgh University, King's Buildings, West Mains Rd, 8.30.

Pragmatic epidemiology - an essential for health care in the tropics, by Prof P. Hamilton; Lecture Theatre 6, Birmingham University Medical School, 9.

Racism in Britain - how far have we come since Wilberforce? by Prof David and Mrs Ann Pearson; Catholic Chancery, Hull University, 44 Nelson Rd, 8.30.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

A Man of Letters, selected essays by V.S. Pritchett (Chatto & Windus, £12.95). *Antiquities*, by V.S. Pritchett (Chatto & Windus, £12.95).

Authority in Language, Investigating Prescription and Standardisation, by James Milroy and Lesley Milroy (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £16.95).

First with the News, The History of W.H. Smith 1872-1972, by Charles Wilson (Penguin, £12.95).

Lord Arundel and his Circle, by David Howarth (Yale, £30).

Love in a Cool Climate, The Letters of Mark Pattison and Meta Bradley 1875-1884, edited by Vivian Green (Oxford, £12.95).

Russia, 1896: John Ruskin's Last Journey, by John Ruskin (Penguin, £12.95).

Our Knowledge of the Growth of Knowledge, Popper or Wittgenstein?, by Peter Murr (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £17.95).

Rural, Riot and Rebellion, Popular Politics and Culture in England 1603-1680, by David Underdown (Oxford, £17.50).

St. Augustine, Augustine's Studies for a New Map of Politics, by George Watson (Macmillan, £22.50, paperback £7.95).

The Journals of Thornton Wilder 1939-1961, with two scenes of an uncompleted play *The Emporium*, edited by Donald Gallup (Yale, £22).

PH

Travel news

Roads

Wales and West Mid: Lane closures on either carriageway between junctions 21 and 22 (Chepstow), Gwent, A30: Temporary traffic lights control single line traffic between Plymouth and London on the A1, 23: Roadworks between Ringwood and Wimborne on West Moors Rd, Ferndown, Dorset.

The North: A51: Collapse of Hockley Bridge at Stapleford, Cheshire; temporary lights. A6: Resurfacing at Kirkland in Kendal, Cumbria. M62: Contrailwork between junction 32 (A639 Castleford) and junction 33 (A1), W. Yorks; roadworks.

Scotland: M8: Outside lanes closed on both carriageways between junction 26 (Hillington) and 27 (Ardrossan), A9: Temporary traffic lights control single line traffic from Larbert Cross to North Broomfield roundabout. Central Scotland: M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 5 (Hamilton) Motherwell/Larkhall; surface repairs.

Information supplied by the AA

With further cold temperatures and more snow forecast, the AA urges drivers to drive with great care and prepare for the hazards of winter motoring: check antifreeze levels, carry de-icer in your vehicles and drive in accordance with weather conditions.

Travel information

British Telecom's pre-recorded Travelling service gives regularly updated information on travel in Britain and on the Continent, including details of weather conditions, strikes or other problems likely to affect travellers. Rail: 01-246 8030; Road (including coach services): 01-246 8031; Sea: 01-246 8032; Air: 01-246 8033. For regional codes, see front of dialling code booklets.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on televising proceedings. Lords (2.30): Debate on the NHS and reform of the social security system.

Poetry prize

Poets under the age of 25 wishing to send in entries for the R.D. Smith Oasis Memorial Prize have until January 20 to do so. The original closing date was December 10. Unpublished poems, limited to 24 lines, should be submitted with an entry form obtainable from the Salamander Oasis Trust, PO Box 68, Cambridge, CB 4AL, tel: 0223 246597. First prize is £750, second £150.

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will persist over N areas and a cold E airstream will affect S areas.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N England, East Angles, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy outbreaks of sleet or snow, moderate in places; wind NE fresh or strong; max temp 2C (36F).

W Midlands, SW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, but some sunny intervals; isolated wintry showers; wind NE fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Rather cloudy, scattered wintry showers; wind E fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Mainly dry, rather cloudy but some sunny intervals; wind E moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mainly dry or sunny at times, especially in the S and E, windy in the S; cold or very cold with widespread frost.

SEA PASSAGE: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind NE, strong to gale, locally severe gale at first; snow at times; visibility moderate locally; sea very rough. English Channel (E): Wind NE, strong, occasionally gale at times; visibility moderate locally; sea rough or very rough. St George's Channel: Wind NE, moderate or fresh, locally strong; visibility moderate or good; sea moderate or rough.

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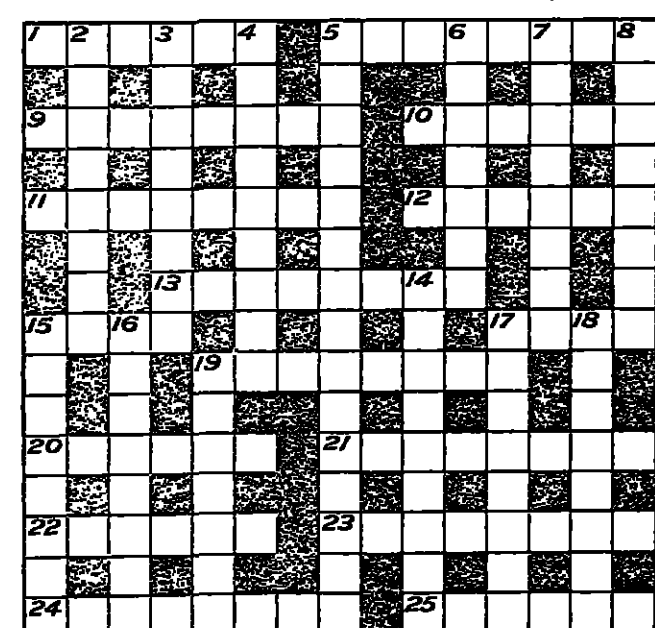
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,899



ACROSS

- 1 Blouse damaged by dagger (6).
- 2 More than enough for a graduate - wicked! (8).
- 3 London's road protector (8).
- 4 Snug his job - as an army recruit? (6).
- 5 Mrs Partridge's main opponent (8).
- 6 State is without a port (6).
- 7 Subject to "income" tax? (8).
- 8 Raising of troops that could reduce our capital (4).
- 9 Resort in South Devon to drink (4).
- 10 Nothing terribly grand that is national (8).
- 11 Material cause of uprising (6).
- 12 Stretched the centre to full length and so on (2,6).
- 13 Oriental one embraced the church in ancient time (6).
- 14 Flower of rem